THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI

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THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI

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KINOSHITA SAKURA

THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI MAIN CHARACTERS

OWNER OF THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY AND A HANDSOME MYSTERIOUS BOY DETECTIVE!! (OR SO HE'D HAVE YOU THINK). IN TRUTH, HE IS THE NORSE GOD OF MISCHIEF AND LIES, LOKI. BACK IN THE REAL WORLD, THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE'S JUST AN IMPERTINENT KID WHO DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL. (LOL).

A FORM-CHANGING SHIKIGAMI WHO WAS SUMMONED WHEN LOKI ATTEMPTED NECROMANCY. WHEN FIRST SUMMONED, HE WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK, BUT HE JUST BEGAN TO LEARN WORDS. LOKI CALLED HIM "EXCELLENT" AND NAMED HIM ETCHAN.

MAYURA'S FATHER AND A SHINTO PRIEST. HE CAN'T HELP BUT BE VERY FOND OF HIS ONLY DAUGHTER MAYURA... (HE'S A DOTING FATHER). WHEN SHE GETS INTO DANGEROUS SITUATIONS, HE HOVERS AROUND HER GIVING THE EYE TO LOKI WHO HE CONSIDERS RESPONSIBLE. HE ALSO SEEMS TO FEAR LOKI. A.K.A. MAYURA-PAPA

A STRANGE YOUNG MAN WHO WORKS VERY HARD TO TAKE CARE OF AND BE OF USE TO LOKI AT THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY. HIS TRUE FORM IS THE SON OF LOKI, THE GIANT SERPENT JORMUNGAND, WHOSE BODY ENCIRCLES THE WORLD. IS HIS STRANGENESS REALLY SOLELY A PRODUCT OF HIS REPTILIAN NATURE?!

MAYURA'S PAPA'S FRIEND AND A DETECTIVE. HE AND THE GREEN DETECTIVE YASU LEAD A BUSY AND HARDBOILED EVERYDAY LIFE. HE OFTEN SEES LOKI AT CRIME SCENES AND THOUGH HE FINDS THE BOY DETECTIVE IRRITATING, HE OFTEN GETS CAUGHT UP IN LOKI'S PACE. HE'S ALSO VERY SOFT ON MAYURA, A DANGEROUS PROPOSITION

A SAUCY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO IS A HUGE MYSTERY FAN AND PROCLAIMS HERSELF LOKI'S ASSISTANT. SHE ALWAYS HANGS AROUND THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY, STICKING HER NOSE INTO ALL THEIR CASES. HER APPEAL IS HER GUTS AND FANGIRLISHNESS, AS WELL AS HER ABILITY TO DO WHATEVER LOKI TELLS HER QUICKLY AND CHEERFULLY.

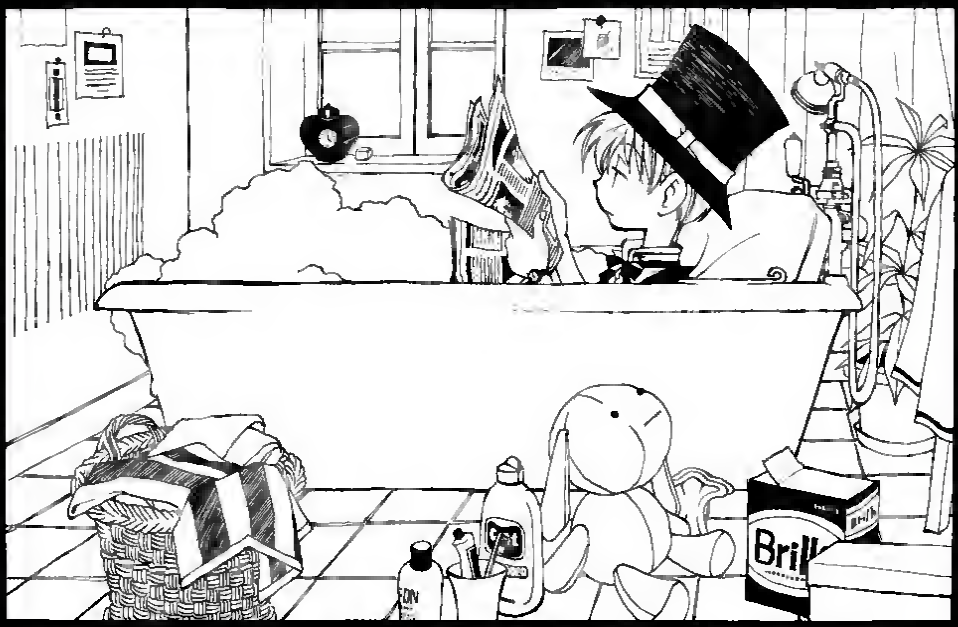
THE STORY UP TO NOW

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL MAYURA DAIDOUJI FIRST CAME TO LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY WHEN HER FRIEND WAS MIXED UP IN A SERIES OF STRANGE MURDERS. AT THE AGENCY SHE CAME TO KNOW LOKI, THE YOUNG BOY WHO CALLED HIMSELF A DETECTIVE, AND SUDDENLY SHE INVADED HIS LIFE!

HOWEVER, THIS BOY WASNT TRULY A HUMAN. HE WAS THE NORSE GOD LOKI, BANISHED FROM THE REALM OF THE GODS IN HUMAN FORM AS PUNISHMENT FOR HIS MISCHIEVOUS DEEDS.

THE GREATEST GOD IN THE PANTHEON INSTRUCTED LOKI, "IF YOU DESTROY THE EVIL THAT LATCHES ONTO HUMAN HEARTS, ONE DAY WE WILL LET YOU RETURN." OUT OF A SENSE OF OBLIGATION AND AN EXCESS OF FREE TIME, HE BEGAN THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE MYSTERY-LOVING TEEN GIRL MAYURA DAIDOUJI AND THE MYSTERIOUS BESPECTACLED YOUNG MAN YAMINO, WHAT MYSTERIOUS INCIDENTS AWAIT LOKI THIS TIME...!?



THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI 2ND

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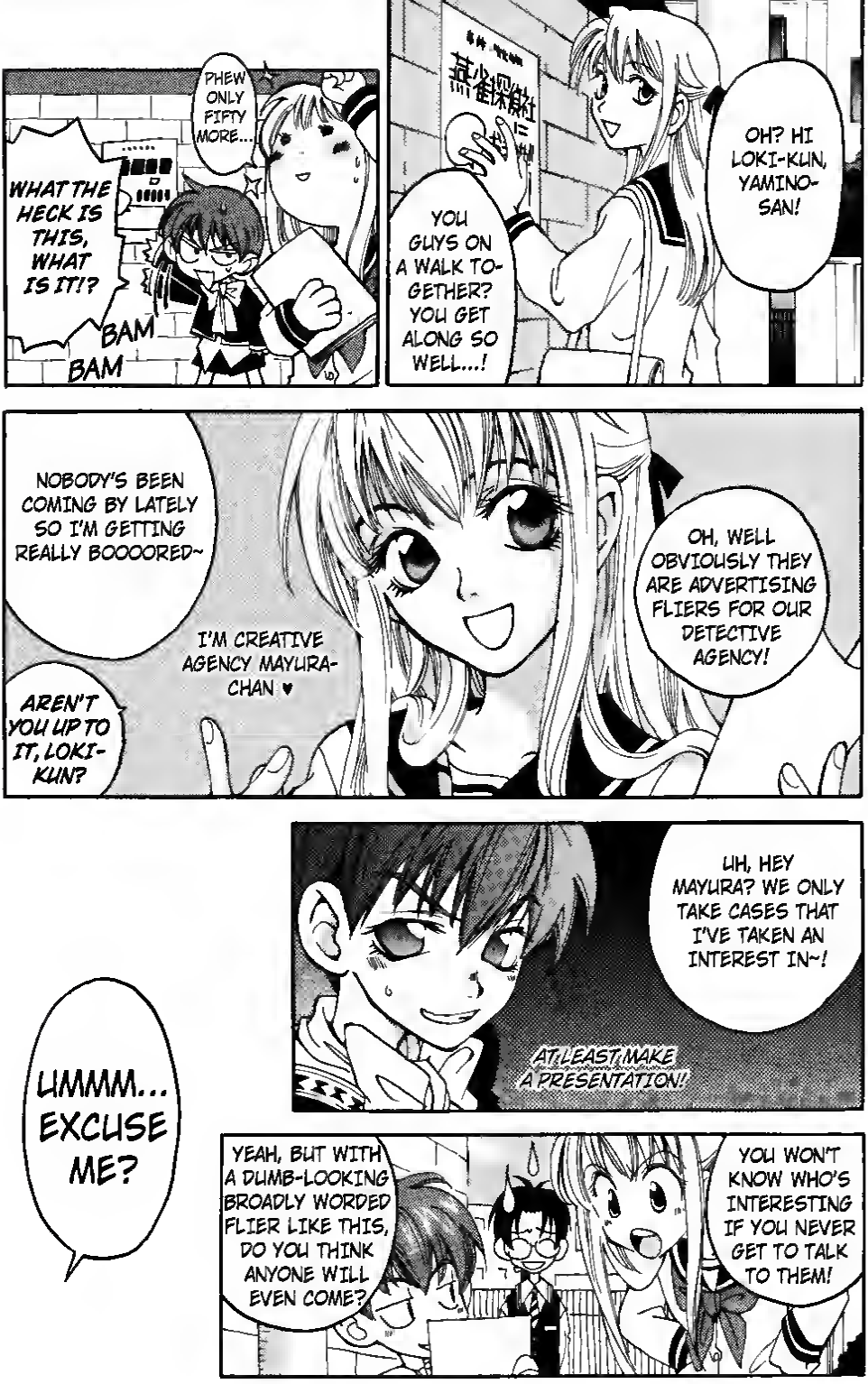
NIGHT 5
FAFNIR'S TREASURE

I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT! THE RING I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR, FOR SO MANY YEARS!
AYANA!! I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN IT! THE RING...!

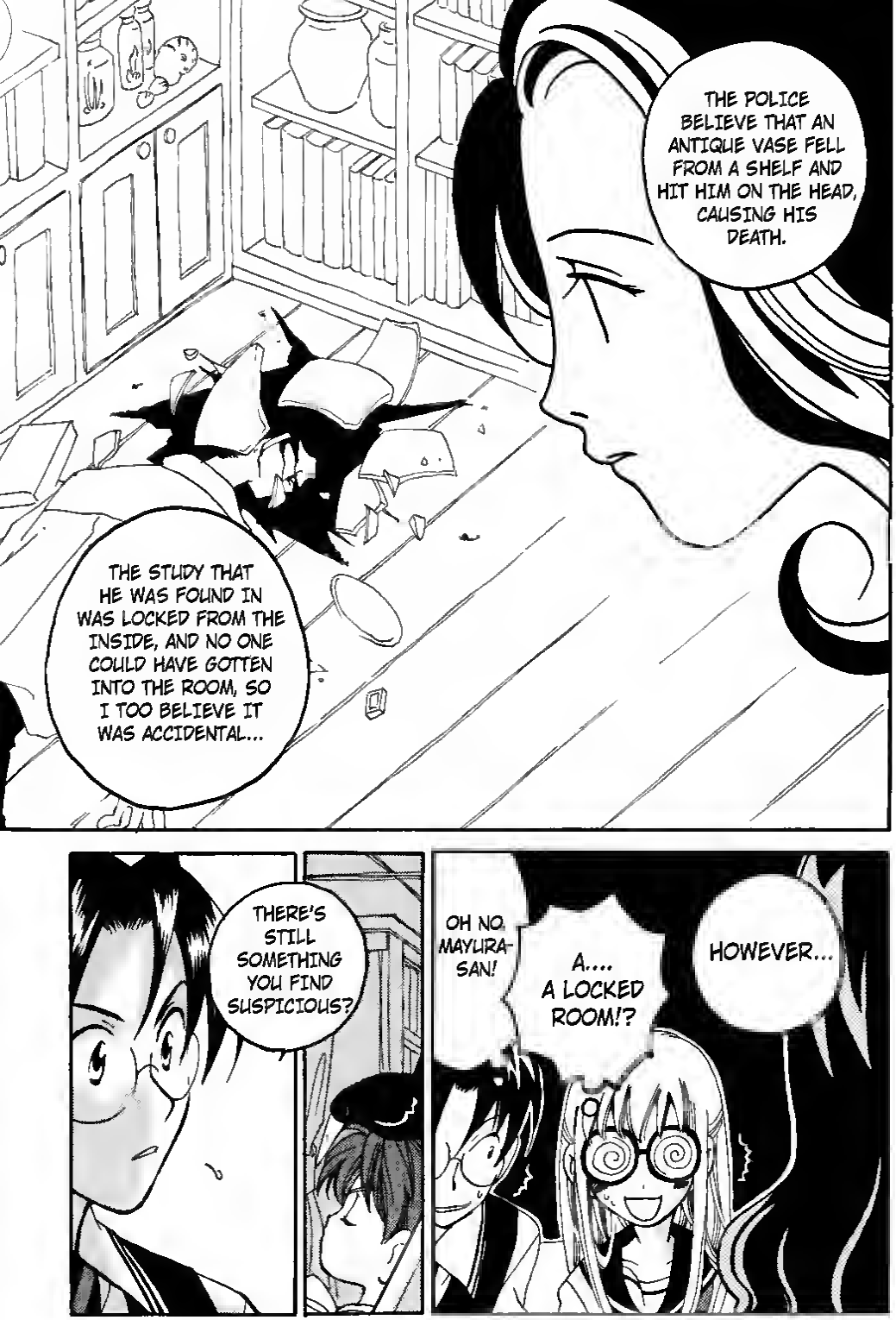
FATHER...
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

CLICK...
PLEASE?
TRY NOT TO GET SO WORKED UP, FATHER.
HA
HA
HA
HA
UP 'TIL NOW, SO MANY HAVE DENIED ITS EXISTENCE AND MOCKED ME! NOW I CAN SHOW THEM HOW WRONG THEY TRULY ARE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

WHAT IS THIS...!?
CRIMES • LOST ITEMS
LEAVE IT TO
LITTLE BIRD
THIS CUTE GIRL DETECTIVE HAS THE ANSWER!!
DETECTIVE AGENCY
WHAT THE-!
WHACK!!
MAYURA...
STICK
STICK
HMM
HMM
DID YOU DO THIS, YAMINO-KUN?
OF COURSE NOT! I WOULD NOT DO SUCH A THING!


PHEW ONLY FIFTY MORE...
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS, WHAT IS IT!?
BAM BAM
YOU GUYS ON A WALK TOGETHER? YOU GET ALONG SO WELL...!
OH? HI LOKI-KUN, YAMINO-SAN!
NOBODY'S BEEN COMING BY LATELY SO I'M GETTING REALLY BOOOORED~
I'M CREATIVE AGENCY MAYURA-CHAN ♥
AREN'T YOU UP TO IT, LOKI-KUN?
OH, WELL OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE ADVERTISING FLIERS FOR OUR DETECTIVE AGENCY!
UH, HEY MAYURA? WE ONLY TAKE CASES THAT I'VE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN~!
AT LEAST MAKE A PRESENTATION!
UMMM... EXCUSE ME?
YEAH, BUT WITH A DUMB-LOOKING BROADLY WORDED FLIER LIKE THIS, DO YOU THINK ANYONE WILL EVEN COME?
YOU WON'T KNOW WHO'S INTERESTING IF YOU NEVER GET TO TALK TO THEM!

AH, I FORGOT TO DRAW A MAP!
NO WAY...!
燕雀探偵社
は
おまかせ!!
LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY MIGHT BE?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS, UM...
MY NAME IS AYANA KAKENOUCHI.
THE OTHER DAY MY FATHER, A COLLEGE PROFESSOR, DIED ACCIDENTALLY IN HIS STUDY.


THE POLICE BELIEVE THAT AN ANTIQUE VASE FELL FROM A SHELF AND HIT HIM ON THE HEAD, CAUSING HIS DEATH.
THE STUDY THAT HE WAS FOUND IN WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, AND NO ONE COULD HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE ROOM, SO I TOO BELIEVE IT WAS ACCIDENTAL...
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING YOU FIND SUSPICIOUS?
OH NO, MAYUKA-SAN!
A.... A LOCKED ROOM!?
HOWEVER...

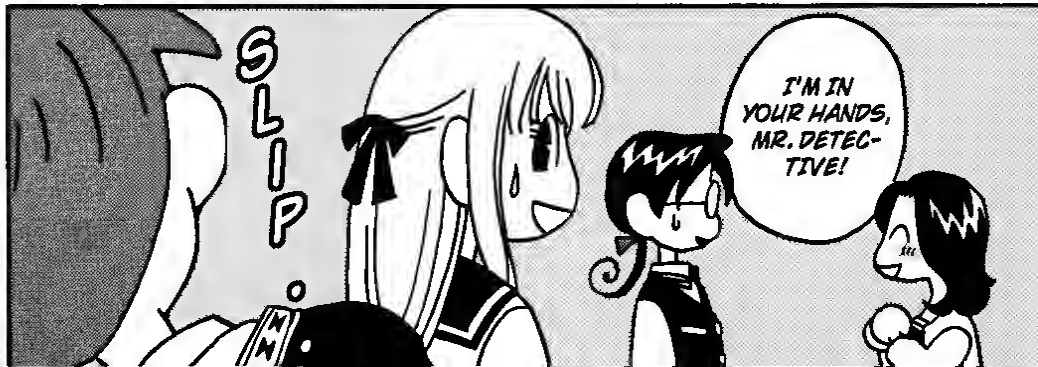
.....
THERE WAS SOMETHING MY FATHER WAS TO LEAVE TO ME WHEN HE DIED, AND I WAS UNABLE TO FIND IT...
WHAT'S THE SOMETHING?
I WONDER IF YOU'VE HEARD OF IT...?
IT'S CALLED THE RING OF THE NIBELUNGEN.
FLUTTER
THE RING OF THE NIBELUNGEN?

WHAZZAT?
WHAZZAT?
IT'S A STORY ABOUT FAFNIR, A MAN WHOSE BROTHER IS KILLED BY THE GODS. HE IS OFFERED GREAT TREASURE IN RECOMPENSE...
...AND KILLS HIS OTHER BROTHER TO CLAIM IT FOR HIMSELF ALONE. HE BECOMES A DRAGON DUE TO HIS GREAT GREED.
AMONG THESE TREASURES IS THE RING, YOU SEE.
IT'S A FAMOUS OPERA CYCLE BY RICHARD WAGNER, AS WELL AS A NORSE FOLKTALE.
IT'S SAID THAT THE PERSON WHO OWNS THE RING WILL DIE A VIOLENT DEATH.
AND ABOUT THAT RING...

ARE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE HOUSE ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT THERE NOW?
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH THEM.
YES, THEY ARE ALL PRESENT, BUT...

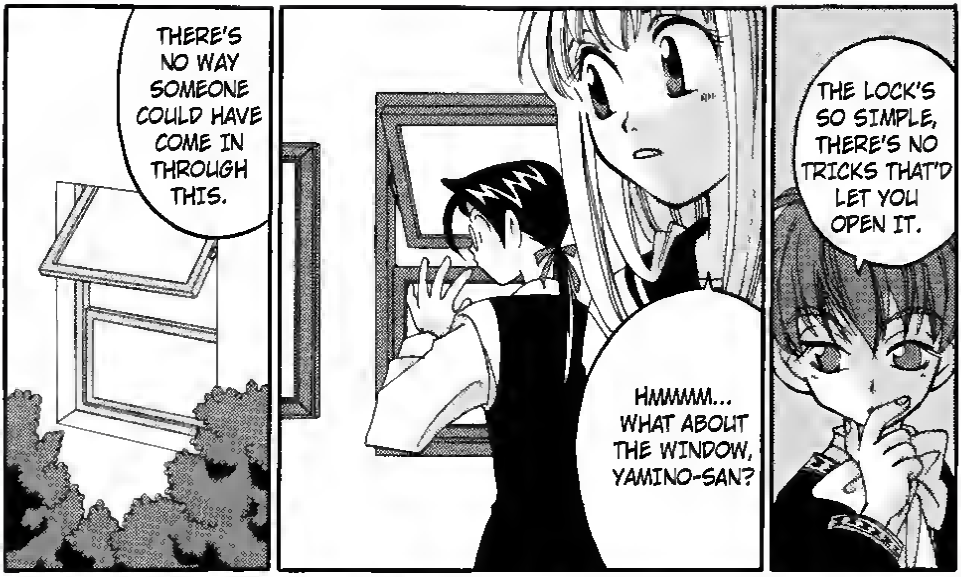
WOOOOW! THIS MANSION IS ALMOST AS GOOD OR BETTER THAN LOKI-KUN'S HOUSE!
IT'S QUITE OLD, SO WE'VE HAD TO DO A LOT OF REPAIRS AND ADDITIONS TO IT, IT'S BEEN VERY DIFFICULT.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD NOT LET THEM KNOW ABOUT MY DOUBTS.
COULD YOU TELL THEM THAT YOU'RE NEWSPAPER REPORTERS WHO INTERVIEWED MY FATHER ON HIS RESEARCH WHEN HE WAS STILL LIVING?
SURE.


I'M IN YOUR HANDS, MR. DETECTIVE!
SLIP

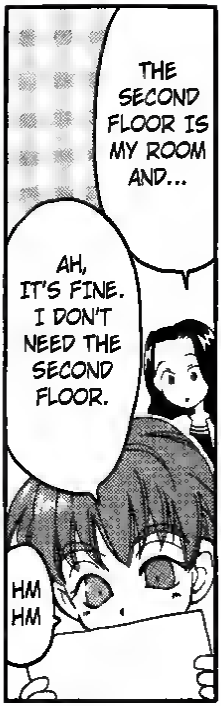
THIS IS MY FATHER'S STUDY.
DON'T YOU HAVE A BUSINESS CARD OR SOMETHING?
WELL, WHATEVER. FINE.
MY FATHER'S FIELD OF STUDY WAS OCCULT STUDIES, SO THE ROOM MAY BE A BIT STRANGE...

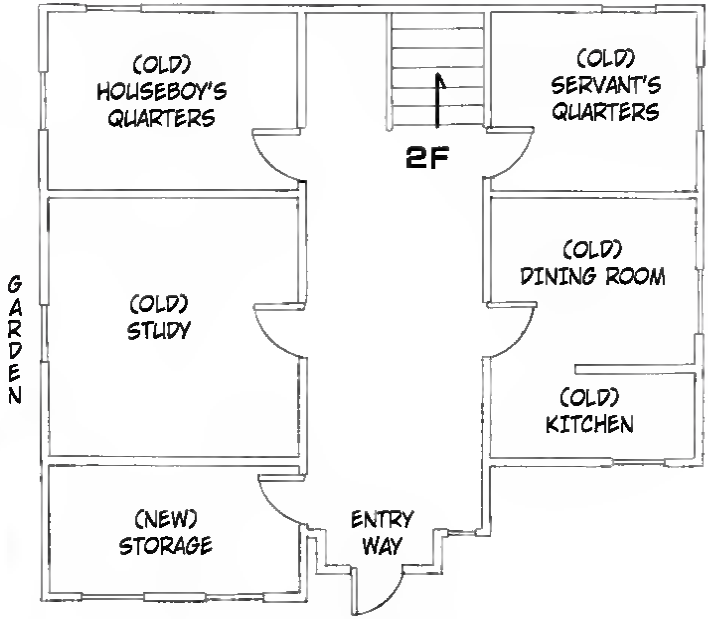
ALL RIGHT, I UNDER-STAND.
FROM WHEN YOU BUILT THE ADDITIONS OR WHATEVER...
I'D LIKE A CHART OF THIS ROOM AND ITS SURROUNDINGS IF THERE IS ONE...
AH, AYANA-SAN!
I'LL CALL THE PEOPLE FROM THE HOUSE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
FIRST, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE LOCK.
THE LOCK'S A BIT OLD-FASHIONED...
HEE
BLUNT
THIS REALLY IMPORTANT RING'S GONE MISSING, RIGHT?
THIS IS TOTALLY A LOCKED DOOR MURDER CASE!!
WELL THEN, LET'S OPEN UP THIS LOCKED DOOR!
CLICK
THERE'S NO LOCK ON THE OTHER SIDE, ONLY A HANDLE.


THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE COULD HAVE COME IN THROUGH THIS.
HMMMM... WHAT ABOUT THE WINDOW, YAMINO-SAN?
THE LOCK'S SO SIMPLE, THERE'S NO TRICKS THAT'D LET YOU OPEN IT.

...ARE NO OTHER POINTS OF ENTRY...
AND... IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THERE...

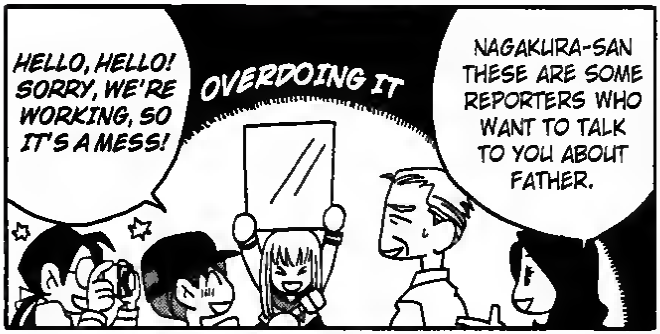
EXCUSE ME. I'VE DRAWN UP A DIAGRAM FOR YOU...
.....

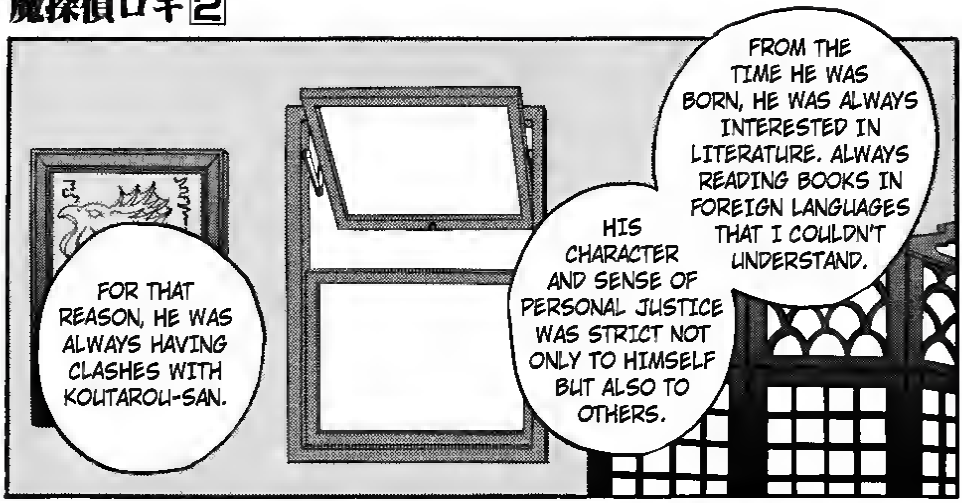


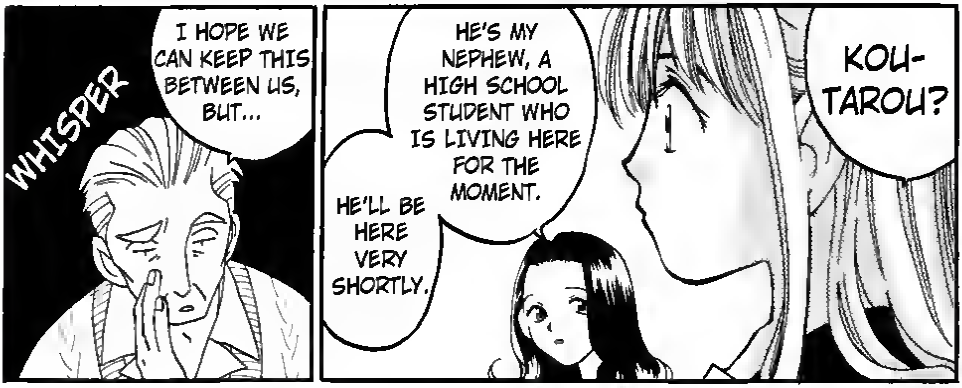


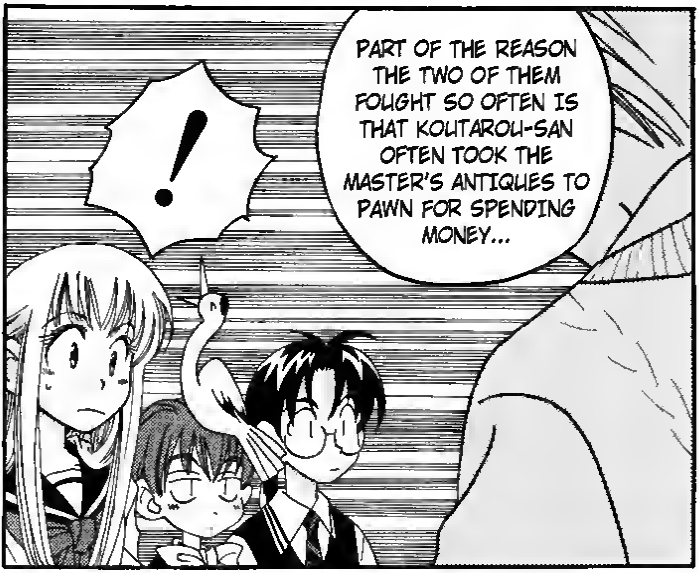
(NEW) NEW CONSTRUCTION

(OLD) ORIGINAL ROOMS

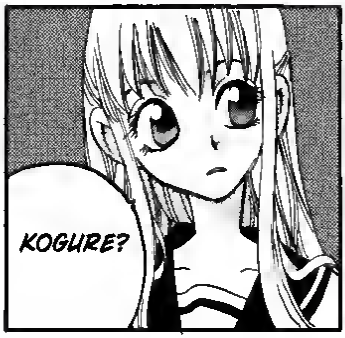

HELLO, HELLO! SORRY, WE'RE WORKING, SO IT'S A MESS!
OVERDOING IT
NAGAKURA-SAN THESE ARE SOME REPORTERS WHO WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT FATHER.


FROM THE TIME HE WAS BORN, HE WAS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN LITERATURE. ALWAYS READING BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES THAT I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
HIS CHARACTER AND SENSE OF PERSONAL JUSTICE WAS STRICT NOT ONLY TO HIMSELF BUT ALSO TO OTHERS.
FOR THAT REASON, HE WAS ALWAYS HAVING CLASHES WITH KOUTAROU-SAN.

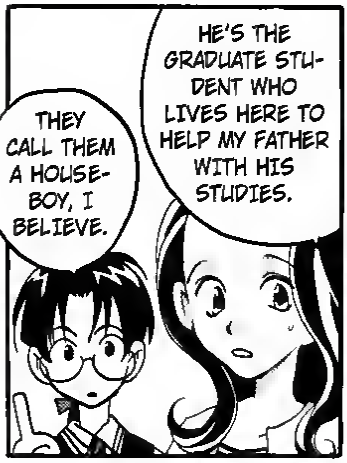

KOU-TAROU?
HE'S MY NEPHEW, A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO IS LIVING HERE FOR THE MOMENT.
HE'LL BE HERE VERY SHORTLY.
WHISPER
I HOPE WE CAN KEEP THIS BETWEEN US, BUT...


!
PART OF THE REASON THE TWO OF THEM FOUGHT SO OFTEN IS THAT KOUTAROU-SAN OFTEN TOOK THE MASTER'S ANTIQUES TO PAWN FOR SPENDING MONEY...
AYANA...! I'M HERE, ALREADY.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP NAGA-KURA-SAN.

HUH!?
UGH, AYANA... WHAT'S THE POINT OF CALLING A DETECTIVE?
YOU'RE THAT RIBBON KID THAT SOLVED THE YURI AOBA CASE...
WHAT'S U- OH!
AREN'T YOU?
I AM INDEED.
WELL, IF YOU KNOW WHO I AM THEN WE CAN GET THIS OVER WITH QUICKLY.
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE RING?
I'M NOT JUST SOME SHOW-OFF WANDERING AROUND TOWN, NOT PAYING ATTENTION!
WOW! HOW COME YOU KNEW THAT?
I KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS.
WHAT? THE KID WAS THE DETECT-IVE?

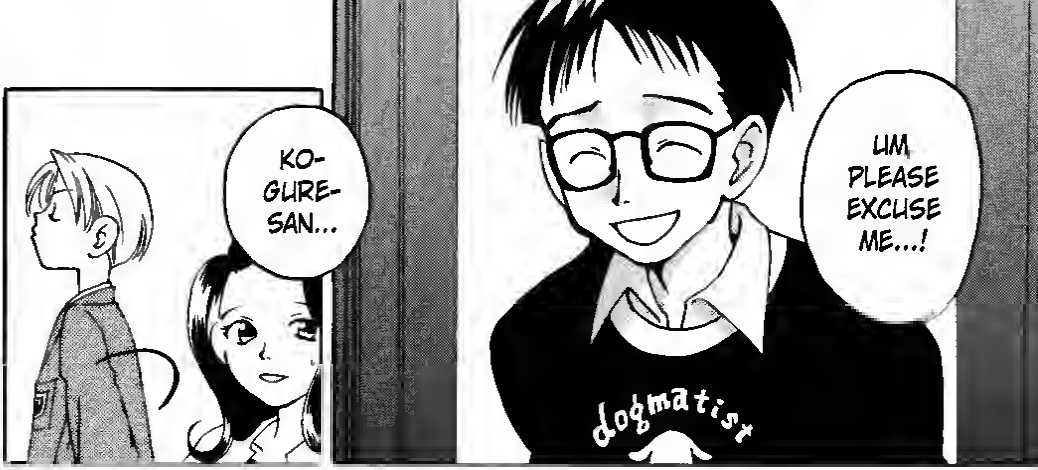

KOGURE?

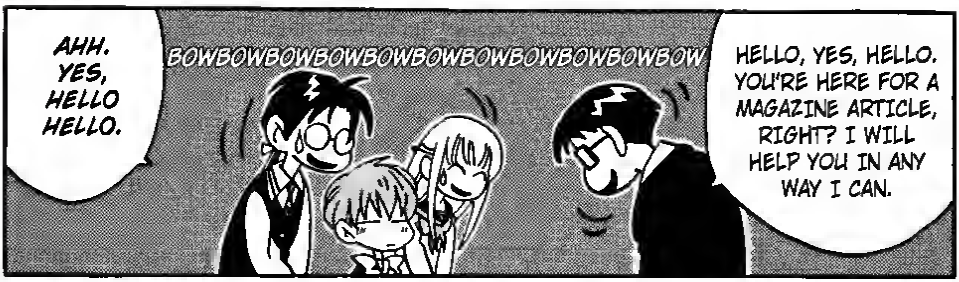
THE RING..?
I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'.
YOU WANT TO SUSPECT SOMEONE, TRY KOGURE.


HE'S THE GRADUATE STUDENT WHO LIVES HERE TO HELP MY FATHER WITH HIS STUDIES.
THEY CALL THEM A HOUSE-BOY, I BELIEVE.

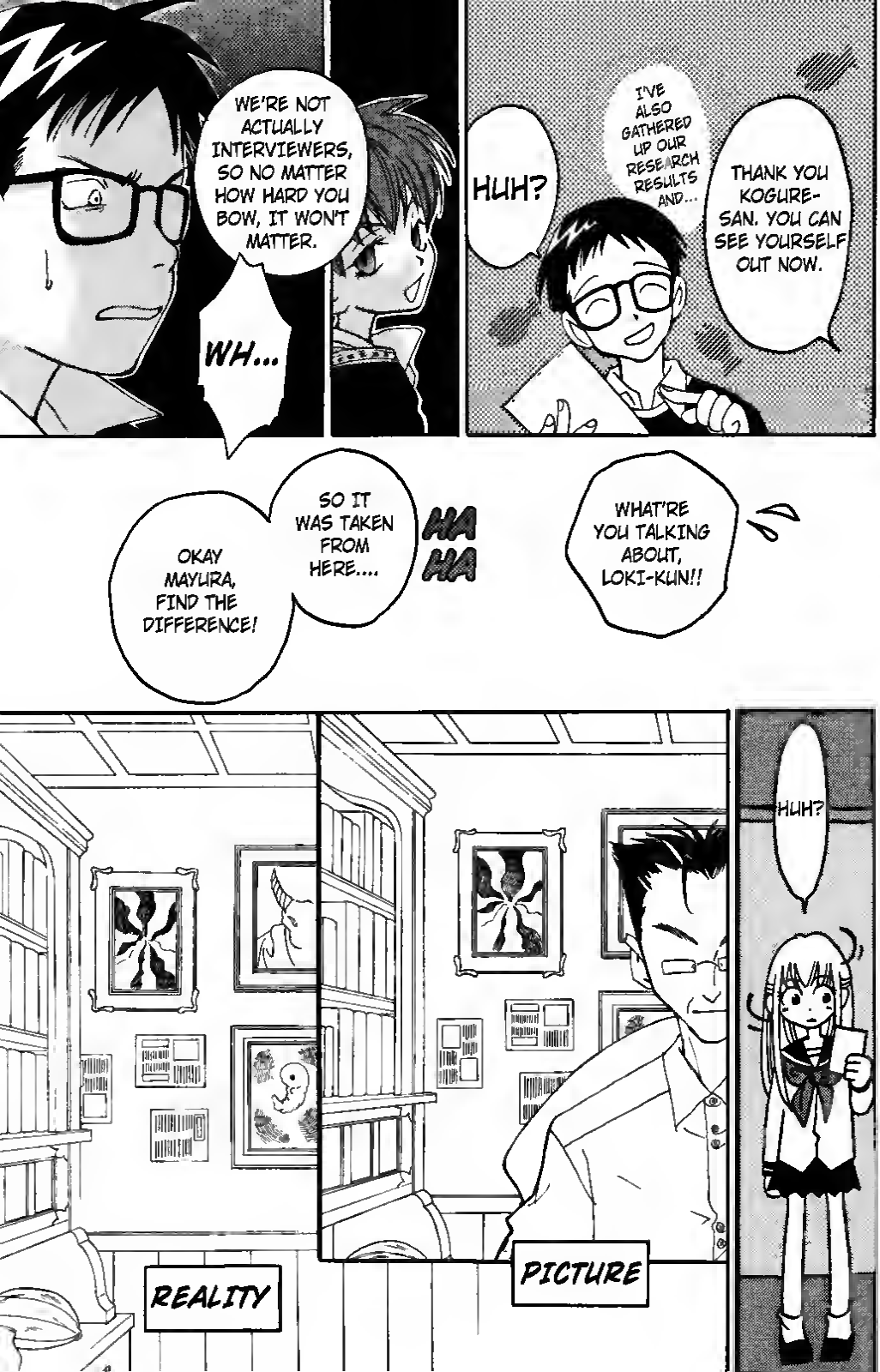
!!
PLUS, I SAW HIM RUMMAGING AROUND IN THE DESK IN THE STUDY.
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO NOTICE ME AT ALL, THOUGH.

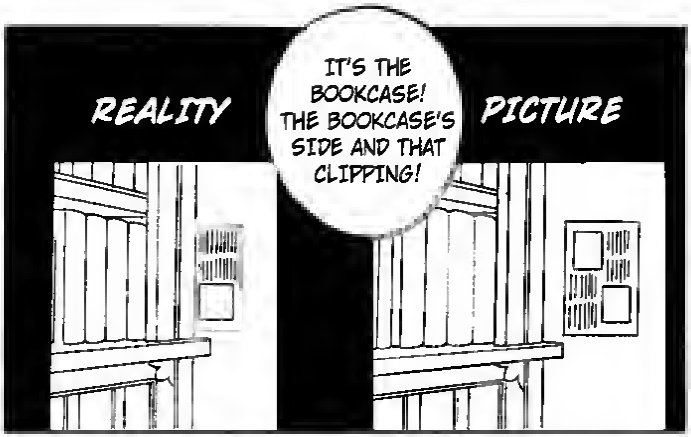
NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES, HE'LL ALWAYS BE A BORING GUY WHO CAN'T GET AHEAD.
HE COULD MAKE A HUGE LOAD OF BUCKS OFF THAT RING, COULDN'T HE?


KO-GURE-SAN...
UM, PLEASE EXCUSE ME...!
dogmatist

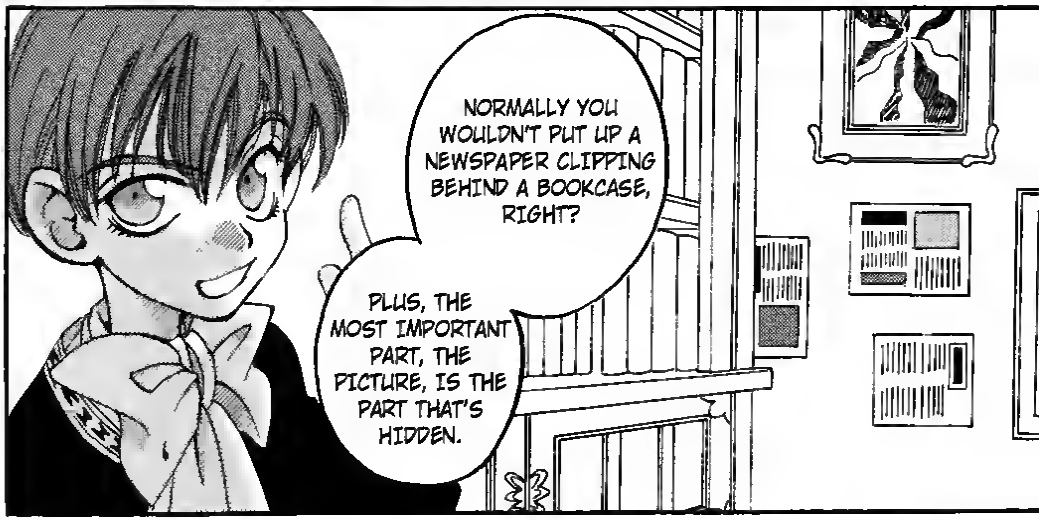

AHH. YES, HELLO HELLO.
BOWBOWBOWBOWBOWBOWBOWBOWBOWBOWBOW
HELLO, YES, HELLO. YOU'RE HERE FOR A MAGAZINE ARTICLE, RIGHT? I WILL HELP YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN.

SHUFFLESHUFFLE
THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN IN THIS VERY STUDY, YOU SEE.
SMILE SMILE
SPEAKING OF THE PROFESSOR, I HAVE A PHOTO OF HIM, TAKEN WHEN HE WAS STILL LIVING, FOR YOUR RESEARCH.
AH.

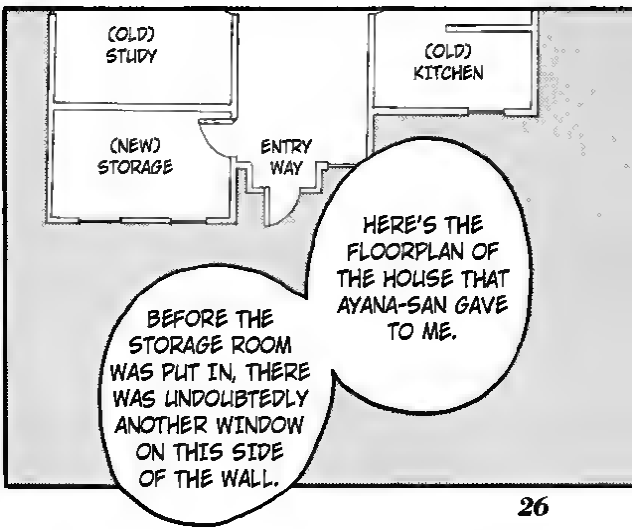

WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY INTERVIEWERS, SO NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU BOW, IT WON'T MATTER.
WH...
HUH?
I'VE ALSO GATHERED UP OUR RESEARCH RESULTS AND...
THANK YOU KOGURE-SAN. YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF OUT NOW.
OKAY MAYURA, FIND THE DIFFERENCE!
SO IT WAS TAKEN FROM HERE....
HA HA
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LOKI-KUN!!
HUH?
REALITY
PICTURE


REALITY
IT'S THE BOOKCASE! THE BOOKCASE'S SIDE AND THAT CLIPPING!
PICTURE

THAT'S EASY!
THE PROFESS-OR ISN'T HERE!
SLIP


NORMALLY YOU WOULDN'T PUT UP A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING BEHIND A BOOKCASE, RIGHT?
PLUS, THE MOST IMPORTANT PART, THE PICTURE, IS THE PART THAT'S HIDDEN.

WELL, THEN LET'S JUST TAKE ALL THE BOOKS OUT RIGHT NOW AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
BUT THIS BOOK-CASE IS TOO HEAVY TO MOVE WHEN IT'S ALL FULL OF HARD-COVER BOOKS LIKE THIS!
TOSS
TOSS

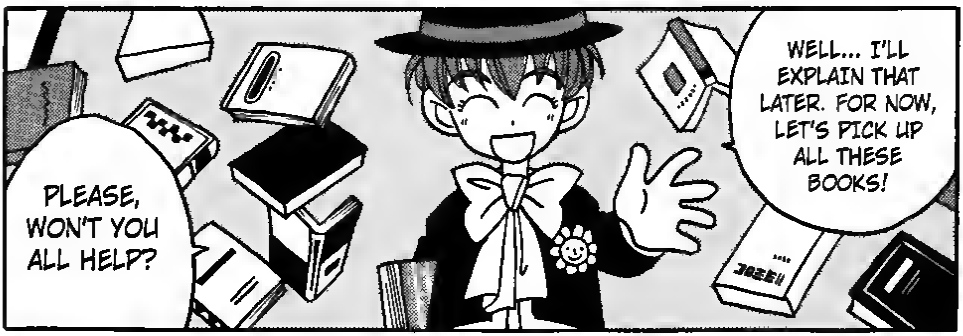

(OLD) STUDY
(OLD) KITCHEN
(NEW) STORAGE
ENTRY WAY
HERE'S THE FLOORPLAN OF THE HOUSE THAT AYANA-SAN GAVE TO ME.
BEFORE THE STORAGE ROOM WAS PUT IN, THERE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ANOTHER WINDOW ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL.

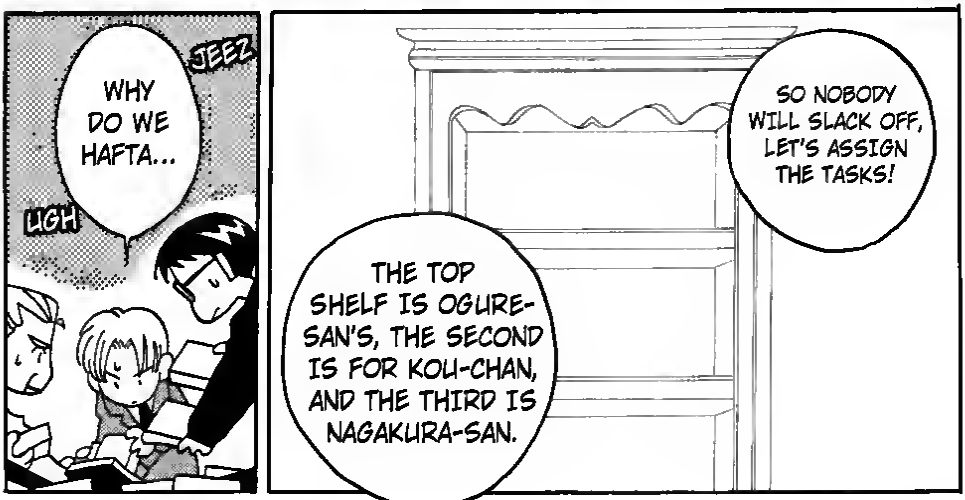
THE KEY TO THIS LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY IS BEHIND THIS BOOKCASE!
MPH
...! I THINK I CAN MOVE IT NOW!
YAMINO-KUN, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MOVE IT?
FSH
FSH...
Open Sesame!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE WEAK CONCRETE THAT WAS USED TO COVER THE WINDOW WAS BROKEN FROM THE STOREROOM SIDE.
THERE REALLY IS A WINDOW! THIS ACTUALLY WAS A LOCKED ROOM MURDER CASE!!
LOCKED ROOM
HM?
IF THE BOOKS WERE MISSING, THEN THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED, HE WOULD HAVE NOTICED...
THE REAL QUESTION IS, HOW DID THE CULPRIT MOVE THE BOOKCASE...?
PAFF PAFF
THIS ONE TOO. THE COLORS MATCH, BUT THE TITLES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THIS... THIS BOOK IS IN THE WRONG SLEEVE.

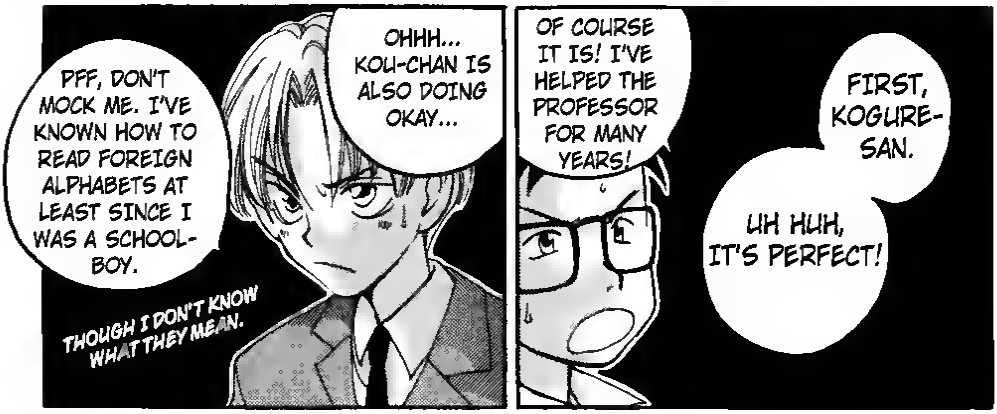
AH HA... NOW I SEE!
YAMINO-KUN, RETURN THE BOOKCASE TO ITS FORMER POSITION!
UGH, WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?
H-HEY! THE BOOKS...!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
A MUR-DER SCENE!
AYANA-SAN. THIS...
...IS A MURDER SCENE.

AND THE CULPRIT...
...IS IN THIS VERY ROOM.
dogmatism


PLEASE, WON'T YOU ALL HELP?
WELL... I'LL EXPLAIN THAT LATER. FOR NOW, LET'S PICK UP ALL THESE BOOKS!
JEEZ!!

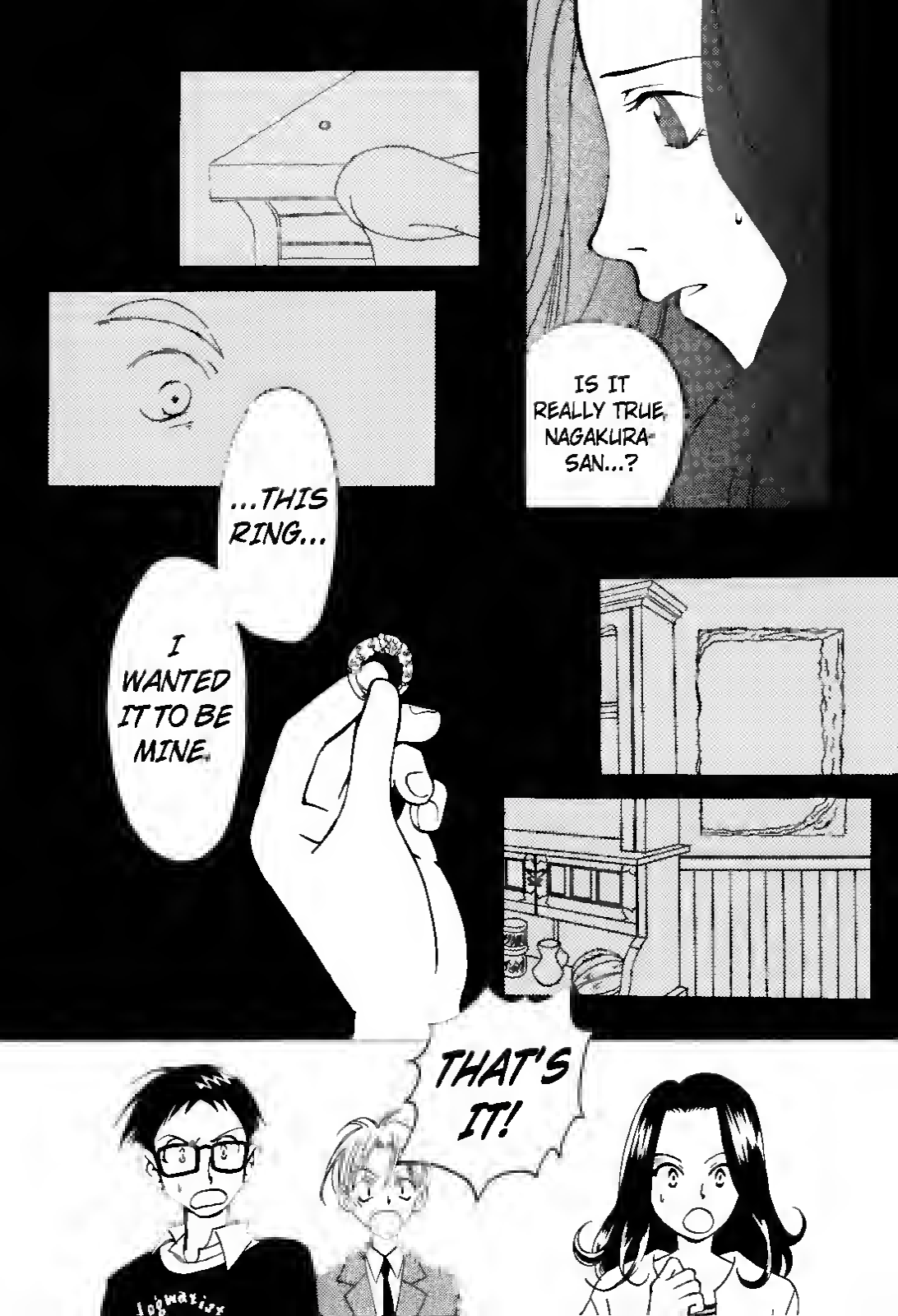

WHY DO WE HAFTA...
JEEZ
UGH
SO NOBODY WILL SLACK OFF, LET'S ASSIGN THE TASKS!
THE TOP SHELF IS OGURE-SAN'S, THE SECOND IS FOR KOU-CHAN, AND THE THIRD IS NAGAKURA-SAN.

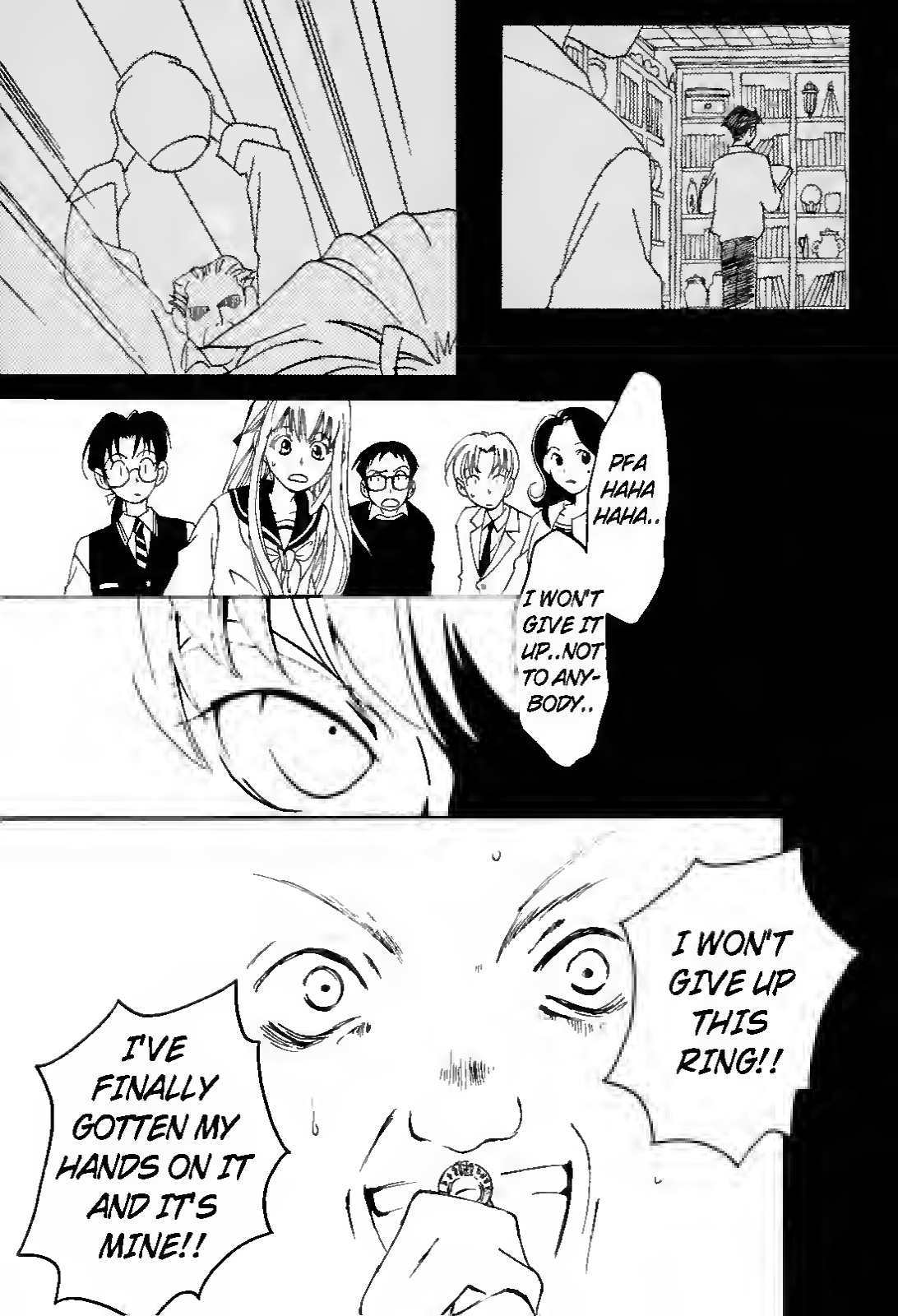
LET'S CHECK YOUR WORK FROM THE TOP DOWN.
GOOD JOB, EVERY-ONE!
!?
THE CHAOLAS
EXERCITIA SPIRITUALIA
BA!


PFF, DON'T MOCK ME. I'VE KNOWN HOW TO READ FOREIGN ALPHABETS AT LEAST SINCE I WAS A SCHOOL-BOY.
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN.
OHHH... KOU-CHAN IS ALSO DOING OKAY...
OF COURSE IT IS! I'VE HELPED THE PROFESSOR FOR MANY YEARS!
FIRST, KOGURE-SAN.
UH HUH, IT'S PERFECT!

AH, JUST AS I THOUGHT.
...SO THE CULPRIT IS SOMEONE WHO CAN'T READ THE TEXT ON THE COVERS OF THE BOOKS.
THE PROFESSOR WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE A MISTAKE WITH HIS BOOKS, RIGHT? SO THE REASON THAT THE BOOKS AND THEIR BOXES WERE MIXED UP....
NAGAKURA-SAN IS THE CULPRIT!
THE ONLY ONE WHO MIXED THEM UP WAS NAGAKURA-SAN.
Alice's adventures in wonderland
!!

THAT IS QUITE ENOUGH!
JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T READ THESE CHARACTERS DOESN'T MEAN THAT I....
THERE IS A WINDOW BEHIND THIS BOOKCASE.
NORMALLY, THE BOOKCASE WOULD BE TOO HEAVY TO MOVE, BUT WITHOUT THE BOOKS IT'S POSSIBLE.
THEREFORE, AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER THE BOOKCASE WAS STOCKED WITH ONLY THE BOXES THE BOOKS WOULD NORMALLY BE IN.
WHEN IT CAME TIME TO RETURN THE BOOKS TO THEIR PLACE, YOU WERE UNABLE TO READ THE CHARACTERS, AND THEREFORE YOU JUST SLOPPILY PUT THEM BACK ACCORDING TO COLOR.
THE OTHER PEOPLE HERE WOULD NOT HAVE MADE SUCH A MISTAKE.
NAGAKURA-SAN!!


IS IT REALLY TRUE, NAGAKURA-SAN...?
...THIS RING...
I WANTED IT TO BE MINE.
THAT'S IT!

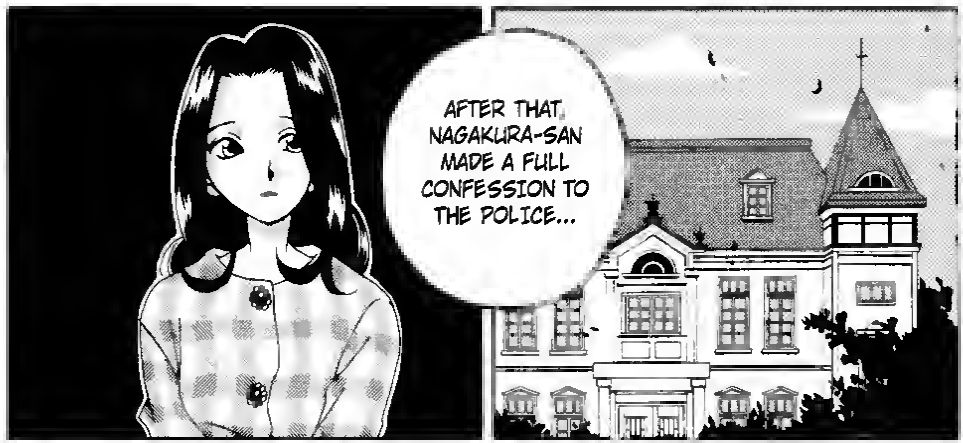

PFA HAHA HAHA..
I WON'T GIVE IT UP..NOT TO ANY-BODY..
I WON'T GIVE UP THIS RING!!
I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN MY HANDS ON IT AND IT'S MINE!!

IN THE RING OF THE NIBELUNG, FAFNIR IS EXTERMINATED BY A HERO NAMED SIEGFRIED.
THOUGH IT'S NOT MY STYLE...
I SHALL PORTRAY SIEGFRIED IN THIS LITTLE SHOW.

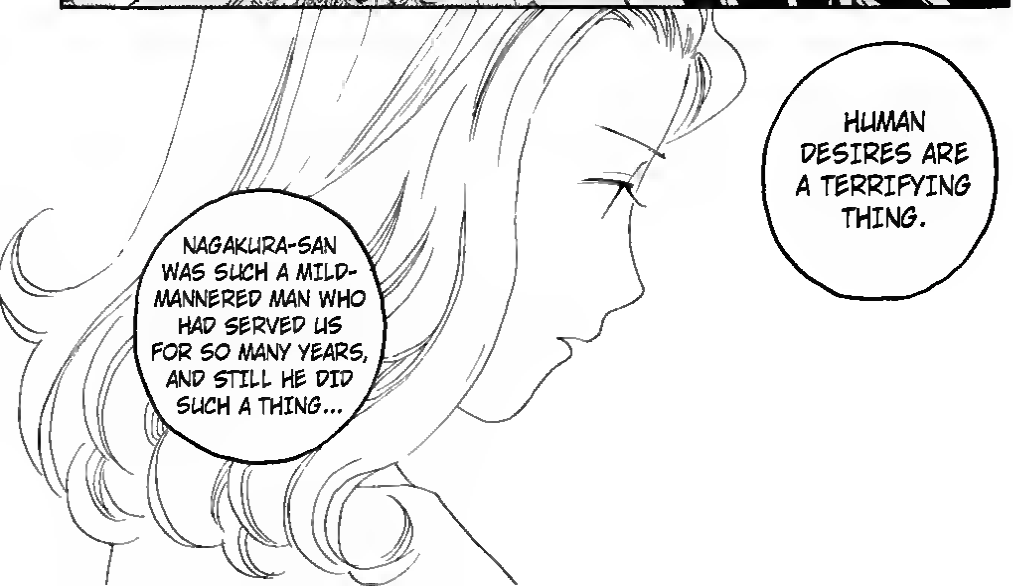
I WILL TAKE THE EVIL FROM YOU.
FAFNIR'S WEAKNESS IS THIS SACRED SWORD, GRAM.
¡!
HUH...
WHAT..?
? ?

I WILL PIERCE YOUR HEART...
BOOM
WITH A SINGLE BLOW!!

AAAAA!
NAGA-KURA-SAN!
SLUMP
NAHHH, HE'LL REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS VERY SOON, SO SHOULDN'T WE CALL THE POLICE INSTEAD?
SMIRK!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
WHAT? WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON!?
.....


AFTER THAT, NAGAKURA-SAN MADE A FULL CONFESSION TO THE POLICE...

THOUGH IT WAS QUITE A SHOCK...
I'M GLAD THAT THE MYSTERY WAS SOLVED.

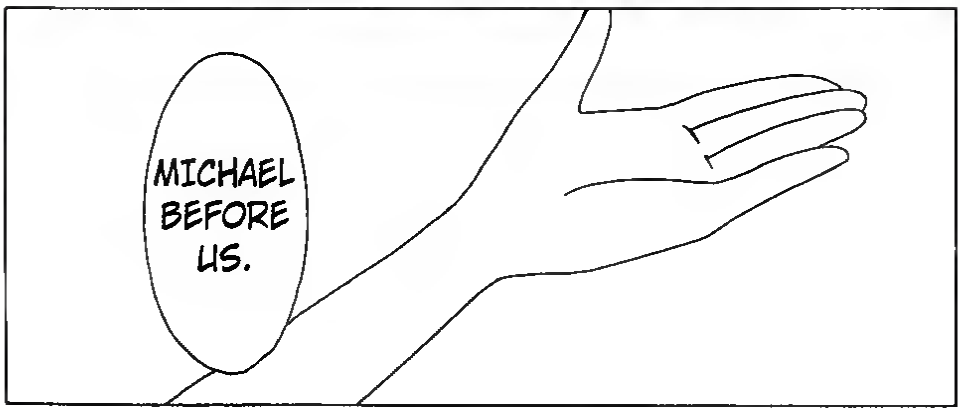

HUMAN DESIRES ARE A TERRIFYING THING.
NAGAKURA-SAN WAS SUCH A MILD-MANNERED MAN WHO HAD SERVED US FOR SO MANY YEARS, AND STILL HE DID SUCH A THING...

THAT RING DECIEVES HUMAN HEARTS.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT EVEN A SERIOUS MAN LIKE NAGAKURA-SAN HAS LET THINGS FESTER IN HIS HEART.
THOUGH THE RING HAS POWER, THE DARKNESS IN THE HUMAN HEART IS VAST...
AS WE AGREED, I BROUGHT THE RING OF THE NIBELUNGEN, TO GIVE YOU AS PAYMENT FOR SOLVING THE CASE.
PUNYA
POP!
THAT'S RIGHT, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE RI-....
I FEEL THAT THERE'S SOME-THING QUITE APPROPRIATE ABOUT GIVING THE RING TO YOU...
WHOA, ARE YOU SURE!? I MEAN, YOUR FATHER LEFT IT TO YOU!?
I AM.

AT ANY RATE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR AID IN THIS MATTER.
AH!
AND THAT RABBIT-LIKE CREATURE? IT IS VERY CUTE.
?
PUNYA
SAW WHAT? I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN...
YOU'RE QUITE SHARP, AREN'T YOU... DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU SAW IT...?
OH, PLEASE... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THE TWO OF YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT....?
WAIT, LOKI-KUN, SHOULDN'T YOU GIVE THAT BACK??
IT IS A CURSED RING, LOKI-SAMA...
AW, MAN.... IT'S ALL LOOSE!!

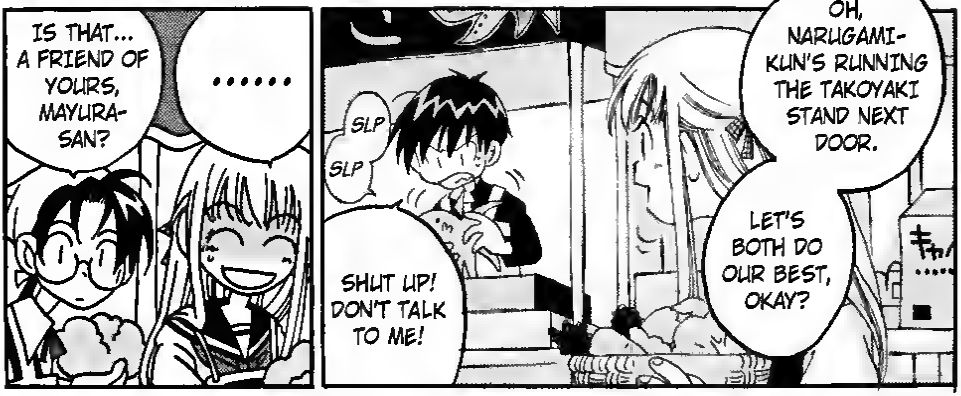
NIGHT 6
AN ANGEL WITH BLACK WINGS
(PART 1)

OH, EVERLASTING AND ALMIGHTY GOD. WE ENTREAT THEE WITH OUR BODIES AND SOULS.
PLEASE SEND TO US SOMEONE TO HELP FULFILL OUR WISH.

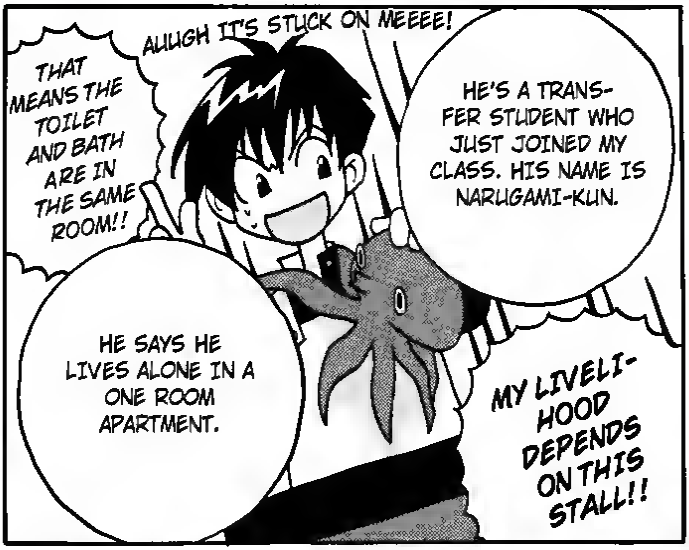

MICHAEL BEFORE US.

GABRIEL BEFORE US.
RAPHAEL BEFORE US.
URIEL BEFORE US.
VISIT YOUR HEAVENLY JUDGMENT UPON...
THOSE WHO HAVE TRESSPASSED AGAINST US.
AMEN!

THE BEST THING AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL HAS GOTTA BE YAKISOBA!
YAMINO-SAN!
I'M CONFIDENT IN THE FLAVOR OF THE FOOD, BUT... WILL IT SELL...?
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SHRM SHRM
TAP TAP TAP
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE MYSTERY CLUB RIGHT NOW, HAVING YAMINO-SAN HERE TO HELP MEANS I'LL WORK LIKE CRAZY!!
LET'S SELL A LOT!
YOMMY!!
THE NAME IS A LITTLE... PROBLEMATIC
MYSTERY YAKISOBA
OH

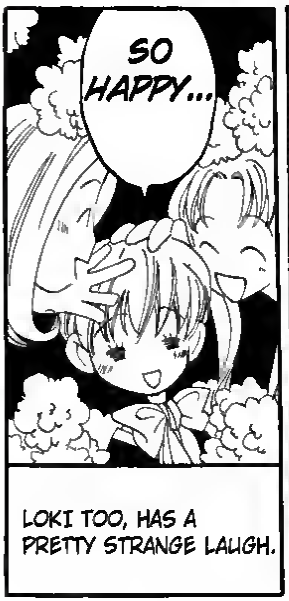

IS THAT... A FRIEND OF YOURS, MAYURA-SAN?
.....
SLP
SLP
SHUT UP! DON'T TALK TO ME!
OH, NARUGAMI-KUN'S RUNNING THE TAKOYAKI STAND NEXT DOOR.
LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST, OKAY?

THAT REMINDS ME, WHERE'S LOKI-KUN?
HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "LOOK AT ALL THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ♥" AND WENT ON A WALK.


AUUGH IT'S STUCK ON MEEEE!
THAT MEANS THE TOILET AND BATH ARE IN THE SAME ROOM!!
HE'S A TRANS-FER STUDENT WHO JUST JOINED MY CLASS. HIS NAME IS NARUGAMI-KUN.
HE SAYS HE LIVES ALONE IN A ONE ROOM APARTMENT.
MY LIVELI-HOOD DEPENDS ON THIS STALL!!

HMMM... I LIKE MY DETECTIVES TO BE MORE STOIC, LESS INTERESTED IN THE LADIES.
.....

GIRLS ARE PRETTY MUCH THE BEST!
OOOH


SO HAPPY...
LOKI TOO, HAS A PRETTY STRANGE LAUGH.

AAAA!!! WHAT A LITTLE CUTIE YOU ARE!
AHH! HE LOOKS LIKE A PORCE-LAIN DOLL!

HAVING A WEIRD GIRL LIKE MAYURA AROUND ALL THE TIME...
HUHU HUHU MYS-TER-YY
WITH A WEIRD LAUGH...
TEE HEE
TEE HEE
THIS CHARM AND BEAUTY IS FASCINATING... I FEEL SO RELIEVED.

ARAI-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FWSH
HIS HAIR IS SO SOFT AND FLUFFY~
FWSH
I'M NOT SURE WHETHER TO BE HAPPY OR FEEL SHE'S MOCKING ME.
AND HIS EYELASHES ARE SO LONG!!
YANNK
ISHIBASHI-SENSEI...
YOU'RE ON THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, AREN'T YOU? SHOULD YOU BE PLAYING AROUND LIKE THIS?
I'M THE ADVISOR TO THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE THIS TIME.
I HOPE YOU'LL TRY NOT TO EMBARRASS ME!

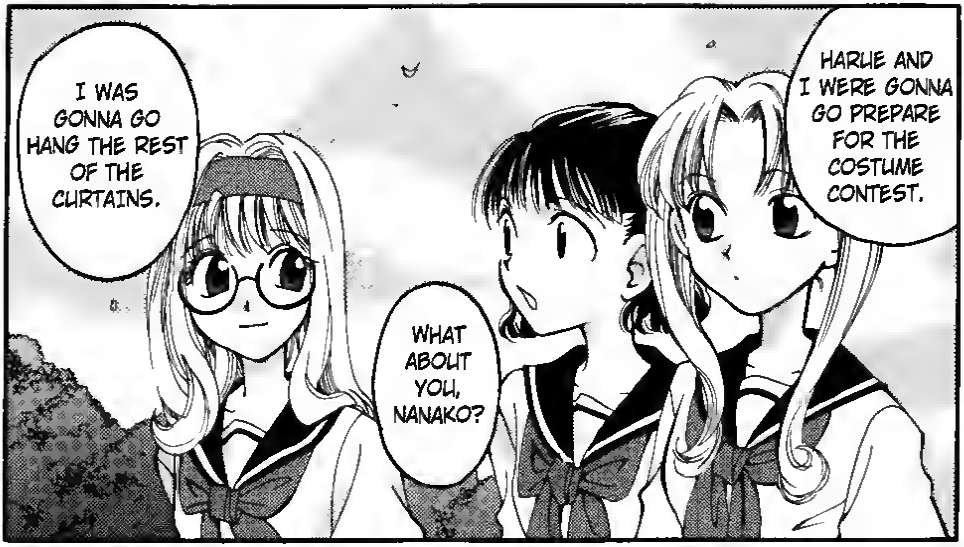
YOUR MARKS ARE SO AWFUL, SHOULDN'T YOU AT LEAST BE WORKING HARD HERE TO GET SOME EXTRA POINTS?
HEY, ISN'T THAT GOING A LITTLE TOO FAR, ISHIBASHI-SENSEI!?
OH MY, IT LOOKS LIKE ALL OF THE PEOPLE ON THE BOARD ARE SLACKING OFF.
BULLYING AN INNOCENT LITTLE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL...
...YOU'RE LIKELY TO CALL DOWN DIVINE JUDGMENT.

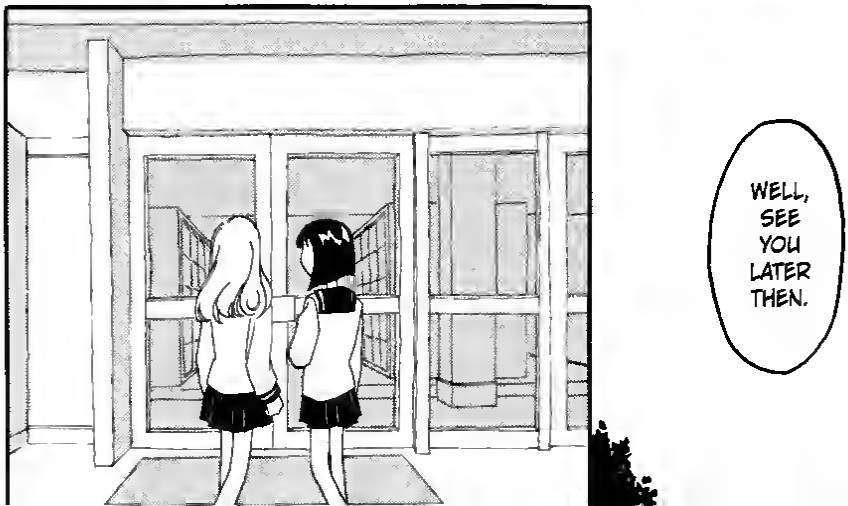
HEHE.. DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TALK TO A TEACHER LIKE THAT?
RITSUKO ORIHARA-SAN...
IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS, YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT'LL BE BAD FOR YOU.
WELL, WHATEVER... I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, COME AND LET ME KNOW, ALL RIGHT?
....

SHE KEEPS TARGETING JUST US, LIKE SHE'S GOT A GRUDGE AGAINST US!
I WISH SHE'D JUST CUT IT OUT! WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS!?
HONESTLY, WHAT A HAUGHTY TEACHER...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SHE'S ALWAYS NAGGING AND BEING SARCASTIC AT US, I CAN'T STAND IT!
BY THE WAY, MIHO...
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY'D SHE START YELLING AT YOU?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, WIDDLE BOY?
I'M LOKI!
HA HA HA
WIDDLE!?
LOST? WHO?
WELL, WE SHOULD CALL FOR HIS PARENTS, THEN.
OH, RIGHT. I THOUGHT THIS KID MIGHT BE LOST, SO I STARTED TO TALK TO HIM.
HUH?

FOR THE SAKE OF MY DARRRRLING DAUGHTER, I'M GOING TO THE CULTURAL FESTIVALLLL~!
THEY CALL ME AN ADORING FATHER... SOOOO..!
UUUUMM...
I'M A GOD, SO I DON'T HAVE A LAST NAME~!
WHAT'S YOUR LAST NAME?
LOST
KID
DOES HE NOT UNDER-STAND?
NNYA!!
EVIL GRINN
WWWAAA AUUUGH HHHHAAAA
WH WHAT!
I MISSED YOU, PAPA!
SMACK

I WAS GONNA GO WALK AROUND THE SCHOOL EXHIBITION.
NOOO HE'S NOT MIINE !!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND HIS GUARDIAN. EVERY-ONE. GO BACK TO YOUR POSTS.


I WAS GONNA GO HANG THE REST OF THE CURTAINS.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NANAKO?
HARUE AND I WERE GONNA GO PREPARE FOR THE COSTUME CONTEST.


WELL, SEE YOU LATER THEN.

THIS IS IT FOR ENTRANTS THIS TIME, HUH?
YEAH, I THINK THERE'S KIND OF NOT ENOUGH TOO...
PAPA....! BUY ME A CANDY APPLE~!
DON'T CALL ME PAPAAAA !!!
OH, HEY!
YOU WANNA BE IN THE COSTUME CONTEST? PEOPLE'D LOVE TO SEE A CUTE LITTLE BOY LIKE YOU.
!?
CUTE?
?
YES. ♡
SHAKE

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
HMPH!
SECRET TECHNIQUE! "TAKOYAKI GALAXY."
PA
PAH
PAH
POP!
PAH
HMM... HE'S CHALLENGING ME AS A COOK, ISN'T HE...
WOW
OOH
こやき
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, YAMINO-SAN... HE'S TAKING ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS!

WELL THEN... IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET SERIOUS AS WELL!
YAKISOBA SECRET TECHNIQUE!!
"NIAGARA FALLS"
SHINNNG!!
YEEEE MYSTERYYY
?!
WOW, GREAT JOB, YAMINO-SAN!!
NICE~!
AW, JEEZ, YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME.
HEY WHAT'S THE DEAL! DON'T GET ALL EXCITED ABOUT TAKIN' AWAY MY LIVELI-HOOD!
WA HA HA HA
ステリー
やきそば
OOOHH!!

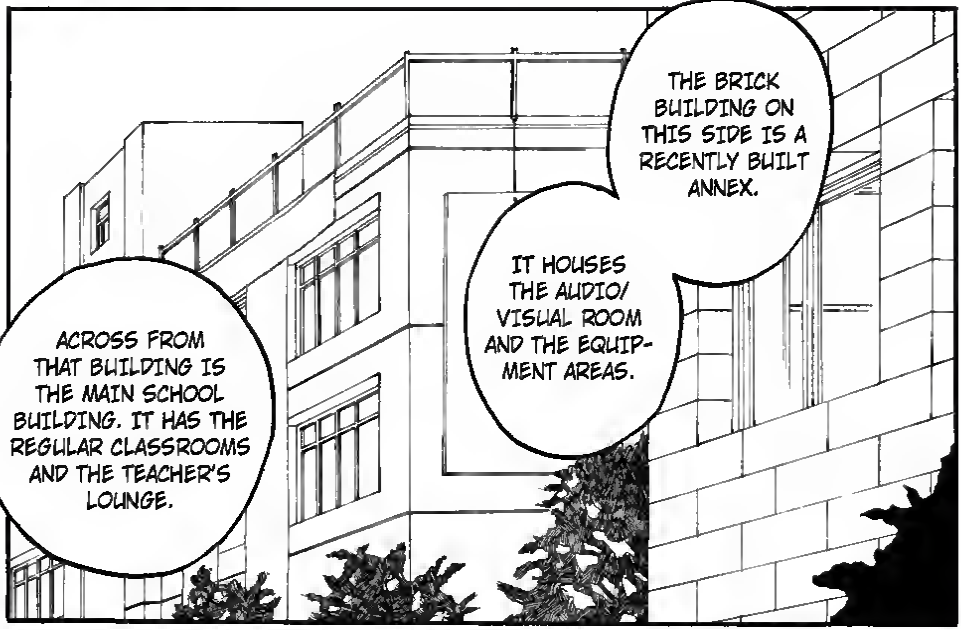
STARE
ARE YOU THAT DETECTIVE?
STARE
STARE
BY THE WAY...
WHO'RE YOU? YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL KID.
WAIIIT!!!
LOKI-SAMA!!
YAMINO-SAN!?
DASH
QUEEN★ALICE
OH MY, NO....
I'M...
SMILE SMILE
POP
POP
WELP, TIME IS MONEY...

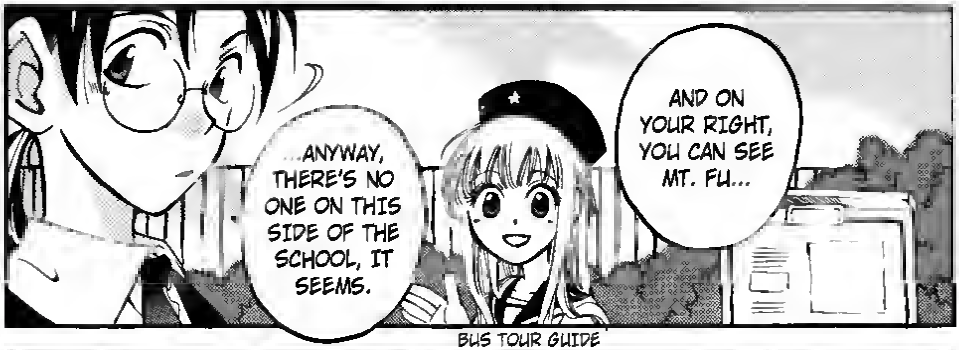
CUTE..?
UMMM...

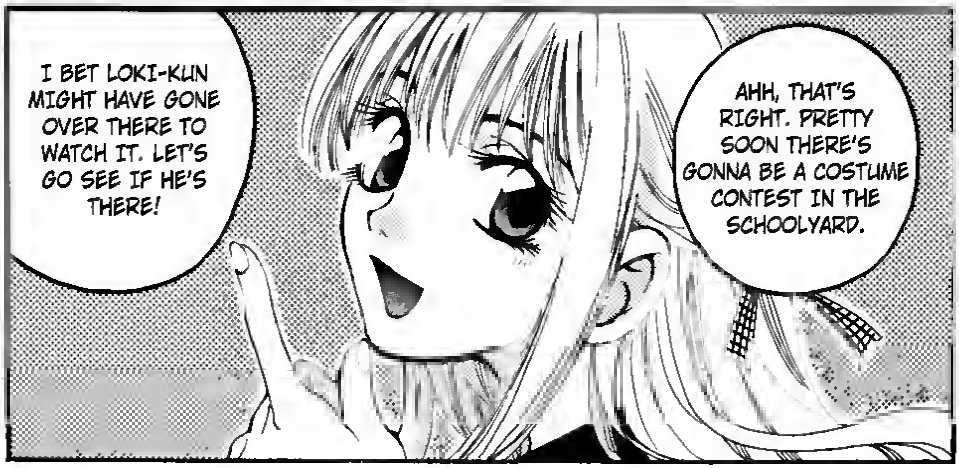
I'M NOT REALLY INTO THIS KIND OF THING...
IF WE'RE GOING WITH A PETER PAN THEME...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, PAPA-SAN?
WHA-? ME?

EEEEEK! SO CUTE!♥ IT REALLY SUITS YOU!
TIGER LILY
WHY DON'T I WEAR THE HOOK COSTUME!?
THAT'S THE BAD GUY, ISN'T IT?
EEE, YOU'RE SO FASHION-ABLE, SIR!
BLUSH
R-REALLY?

WHAT'S WRONG, YAMINO-SAN!?
....THOUGH, I'VE BEEN RUNNING HERE AND THERE WITHOUT THINKING AND... WHERE ARE WE NOW?
AT ANY RATE, LET'S REPORT BACK TO LOKI-SAMA!
THAT PERSON IS FRIGHTENING!!
YOU MEAN NARUGAMI-KUN?
TAPTAPTAPTAPTAPTAPTAPTA
SCHOOL DIRECTORY
GYM
SCHOOL YARD
MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING
ANNEX
GATES
THIS IS WHERE THE STAND IS.
GOOD THING THIS DIRECTORY IS HERE, SO I CAN INTRODUCE OUR SCHOOL TO YOU!!
THE PLACE WE'RE IN IS ABOUT HERE.

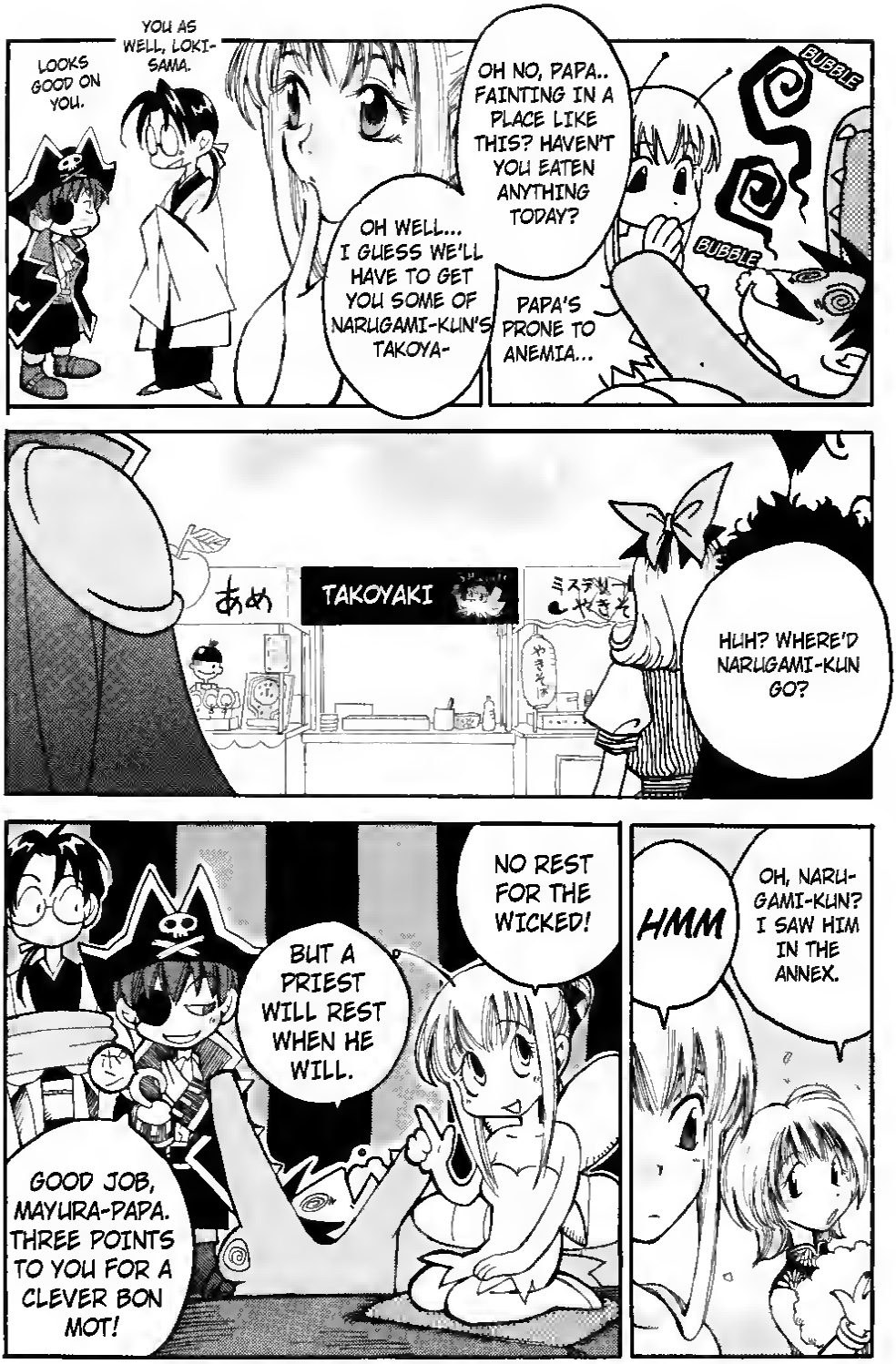

ACROSS FROM THAT BUILDING IS THE MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING. IT HAS THE REGULAR CLASSROOMS AND THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE.
IT HOUSES THE AUDIO/VISUAL ROOM AND THE EQUIPMENT AREAS.
THE BRICK BUILDING ON THIS SIDE IS A RECENTLY BUILT ANNEX.

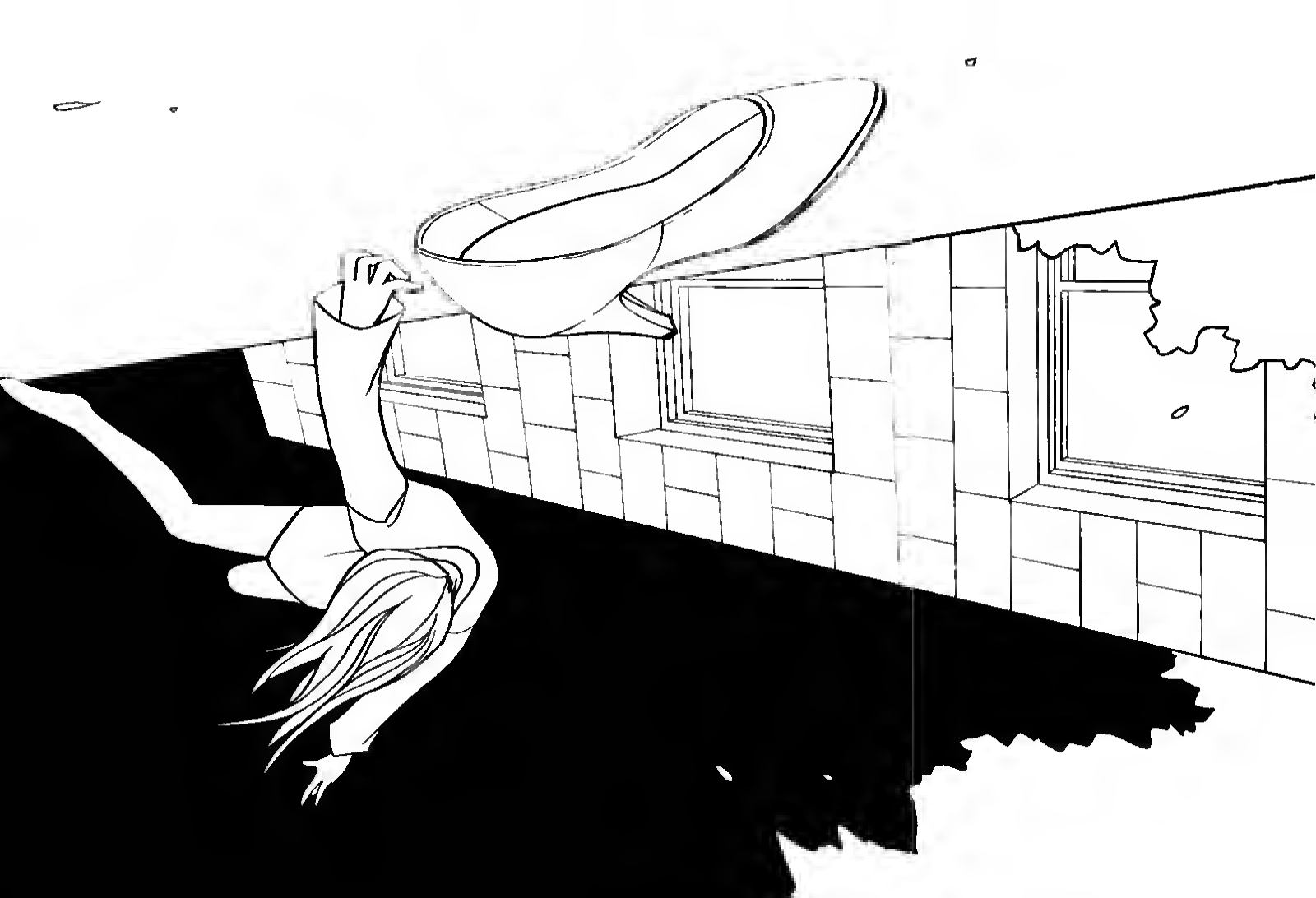

...ANYWAY, THERE'S NO ONE ON THIS SIDE OF THE SCHOOL, IT SEEMS.
AND ON YOUR RIGHT, YOU CAN SEE MT. FU...
BUS TOUR GUIDE


I BET LOKI-KUN MIGHT HAVE GONE OVER THERE TO WATCH IT. LET'S GO SEE IF HE'S THERE!
AHH, THAT'S RIGHT. PRETTY SOON THERE'S GONNA BE A COSTUME CONTEST IN THE SCHOOLYARD.

HE'S HERE!!
I DON'T THINK THIS IS VERY FASHION-ABLE....
WORLD DOMI-NATION, HERE I COME! ♥
HOW LOVELY YOU LOOK, LOKI-SAMA!!
HOW HE SEES IT
WHUH!
DANG LOKI-KUN, GOOD JOB.. EVEN PAPA LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME....
HOW SHE SEES IT

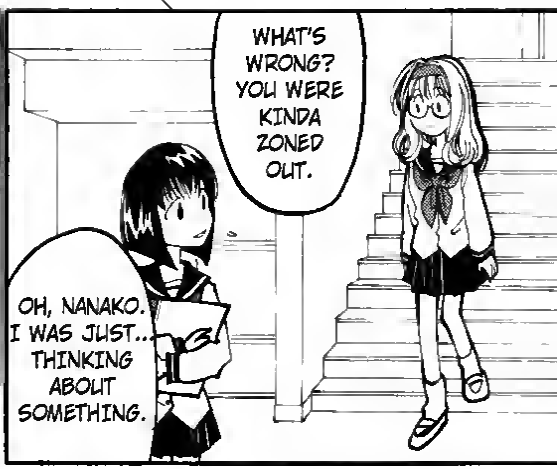
WHA-?
YAMINO-SAN, LET'S PARTICIPATE TOO!!
SUDDENLY, NEW PARTICIPANTS APPEAR!!
HN.
HEY ALL! IF YOU'VE GOT A CASE, COME ON BY TO LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY!!
HERE'S TINKERBELL!
PAPA-SAN'S BORROWED CLOTHES!
MAYURA! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING!


LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
YOU AS WELL, LOKI-SAMA.
OH WELL... I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GET YOU SOME OF NARUGAMI-KUN'S TAKOYA-
OH NO, PAPA.. FAINTING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS? HAVEN'T YOU EATEN ANYTHING TODAY?
PAPA'S PRONE TO ANEMIA...
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
あめ
TAKOYAKI
ミステリー
やきそば
HUH? WHERE'D NARUGAMI-KUN GO?
NO REST FOR THE WICKED!
BUT A PRIEST WILL REST WHEN HE WILL.
GOOD JOB, MAYURA-PAPA. THREE POINTS TO YOU FOR A CLEVER BON MOT!
HMM
OH, NARU-GAMI-KUN? I SAW HIM IN THE ANNEX.



RITSU-KO!

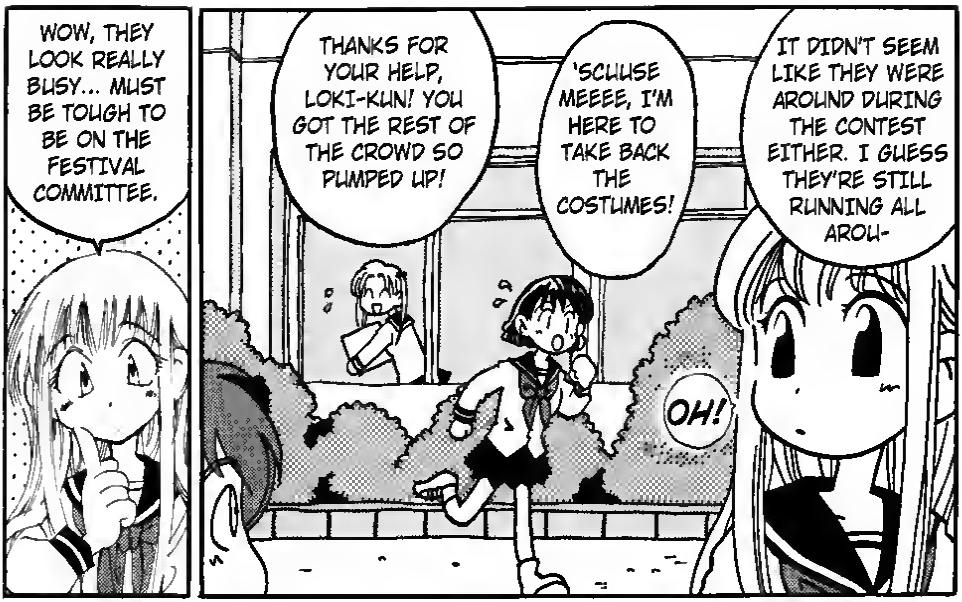
YEP!
THERE'S A LOT OF CLASSES TO CHECK....
NANAKO, ARE YOU DONE WITH THE BANNERS?


WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WERE KINDA ZONED OUT.
OH, NANAKO. I WAS JUST... THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING.

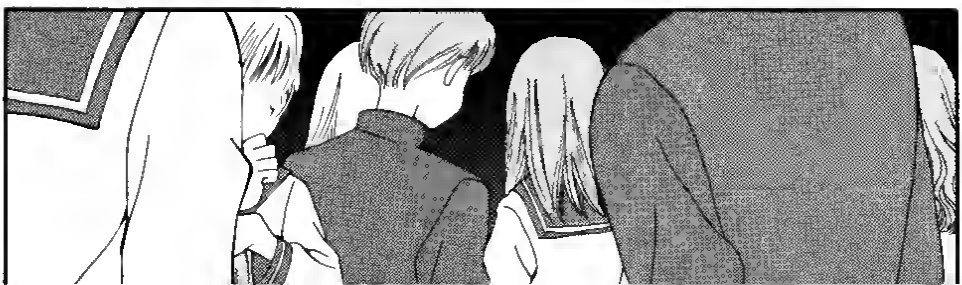
YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY, PAPA?
THAT WAS FUN!
BRRMBRRMBRRMB

I'LL HELP YOU OUT, RITSUKO! IT'D BE TOO HARD TO DO IT ON YOUR OWN.
THANKS FOR THE HELP!

THE EXPLODING HELL OF SHINING YOUTH...
JESUS' BURNING FIGHTING SPIRIT BOMB...
WELL THEN, BACK TO YAKI-SOBA !!
I DON'T REMEMBER RAISING YOU TO BE AN EXHIBITION-IST!! MAYURA, YOU STUPID JERK!!
AHAHAHAHAH
HAHA, THEY REALLY ARE! WHAT'S LAVI TSEF LAR UTLUC!?!
THOSE BANNERS... THE COPY IS REALLY STRANGE...
THE EXPLO-DING HELL OF SHIN-ING YOUTH CLASS 2-B
JESUS BURN-ING FIGHT-ING SPIRIT BOMB VIP BY THE WRESTLING CLUB
WEL-COME TO THE 36TH CULTU-RAL FEST-IVAL
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT?
BEFORE WE RETURN TO THE STAND, WE SHOULD TAKE THESE CLOTHES BACK...
OH, RIGHT, WHERE'D THE FESTIVAL COUNCIL GUYS GO?
IT MUST BE HUNG WRONG... WEIRD.
AH...
THAT ONE'S JUST UP-SIDE DOWN, ISN'T IT?
...OH THE 36TH CULTURAL FESTIVAL...


WOW, THEY LOOK REALLY BUSY... MUST BE TOUGH TO BE ON THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, LOKI-KUN! YOU GOT THE REST OF THE CROWD SO PUMPED UP!
'SCUUSE MEEEE, I'M HERE TO TAKE BACK THE COSTUMES!
IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THEY WERE AROUND DURING THE CONTEST EITHER. I GUESS THEY'RE STILL RUNNING ALL AROU-
OH!

!?
AA AAA!!



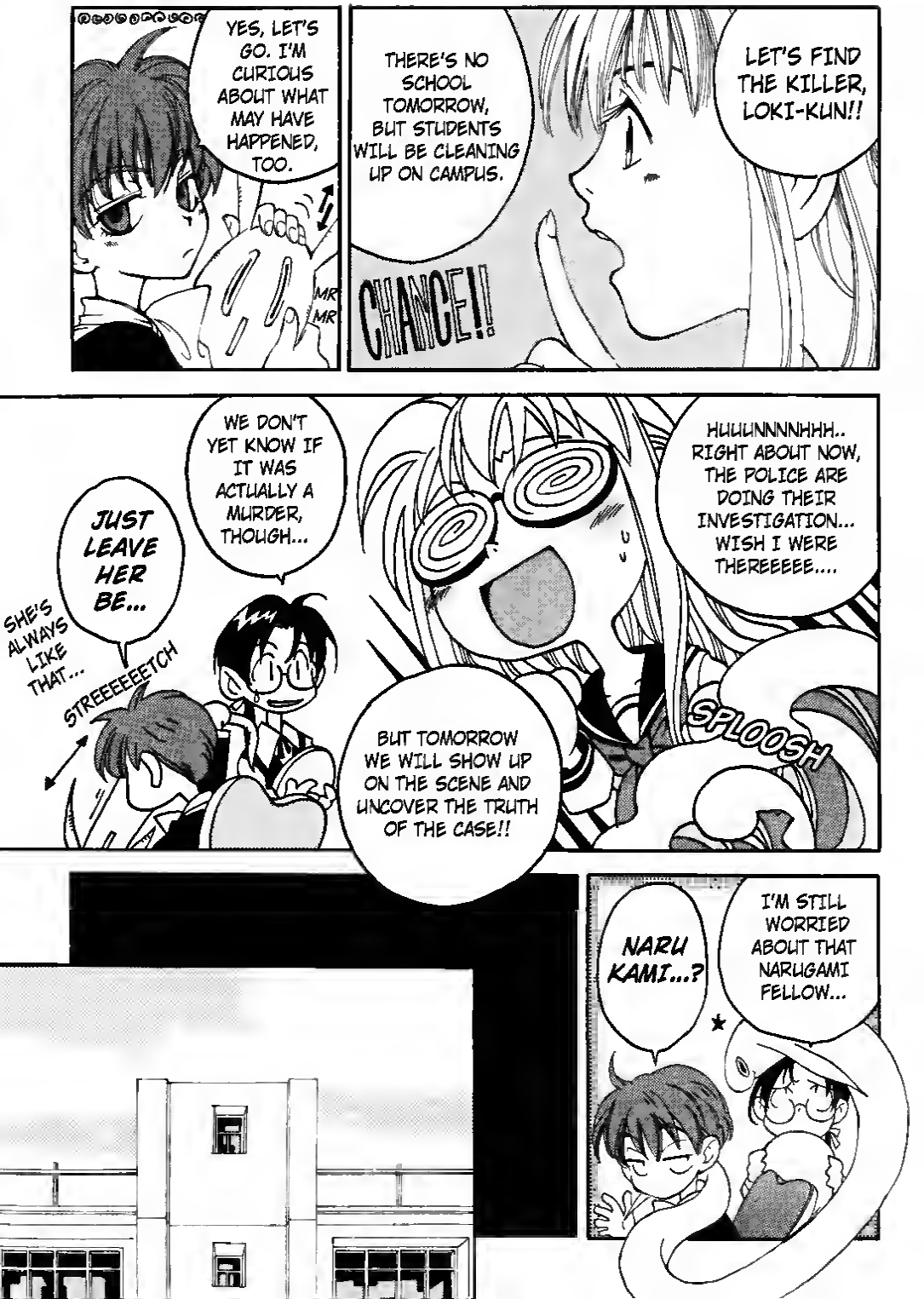
I...
ISHI BA-SHI SEN-SEI !?
....HER MANICURE IS COMING OFF...
SH- OH MY GOD, SHE'S DEAD.
HUH!?

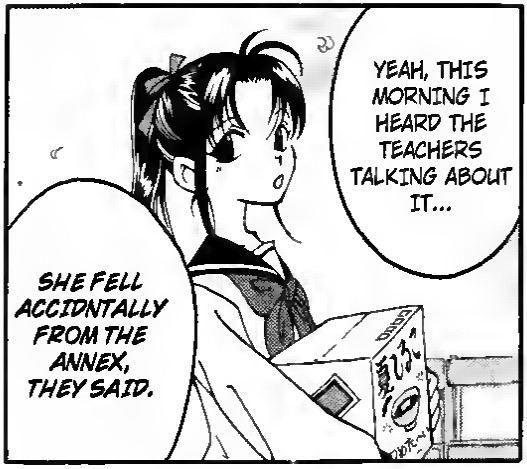
SO... IT HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE IN THE COSTUME CONTEST...?
WHEN WE CAME THROUGH HERE EARLIER, WE SAW NOTHING...
.....
WHISPER
SOMEONE KILLED ISHI-BASHI?
WHISPER
I THINK SO TOO.
EVERY BODY KIND OF HATED HER.
HEY!! GET BACK, GET AWAY FROM HERE!
STUDENTS AND GUESTS, THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL IS CANCELLED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE EXITS.
ANY STUDENTS WHO NEED TO CLEAN UP MAY DO SO TOMORROW...

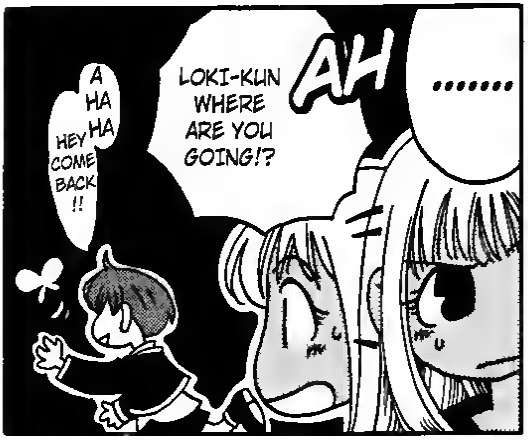
WOW... THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL WAS GONNA BE FUN, THEN THAT HAPPENED.
I'M SO SURPRISED...

DO YOU THINK THAT ISHIBASHI-SENSEI WAS MURDERED, MAYURA?
I WAS AWW AWONE...
THERE THERE
SHE WAS KIND OF NOTOR-IOUS...
A LOT OF PEOPLE DISLIKED HER...

I NEVER REALLY KNEW HER IN PERSON, SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT IF SHE DISLIKED YOU, SHE COULD REALLY RUIN YOUR FUTURE PATH AT THE SCHOOL...
PUNYAN
.....
BUT I MEAN, KILLING HER IS NO WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM!


YES, LET'S GO. I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED, TOO.
MR MR
THERE'S NO SCHOOL TOMORROW, BUT STUDENTS WILL BE CLEANING UP ON CAMPUS.
CHANCE!!
LET'S FIND THE KILLER, LOKI-KUN!!
WE DON'T YET KNOW IF IT WAS ACTUALLY A MURDER, THOUGH...
JUST LEAVE HER BE...
SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
STREEEEEETCH
HUUUNNNNHHH.. RIGHT ABOUT NOW, THE POLICE ARE DOING THEIR INVESTIGATION... WISH I WERE THEREEEEE....
SPLOOSH
BUT TOMORROW WE WILL SHOW UP ON THE SCENE AND UNCOVER THE TRUTH OF THE CASE!!
NARU KAMI...?
I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT THAT NARUGAMI FELLOW...


YEAH, THIS MORNING I HEARD THE TEACHERS TALKING ABOUT IT...
SHE FELL ACCIDNTALLY FROM THE ANNEX, THEY SAID.

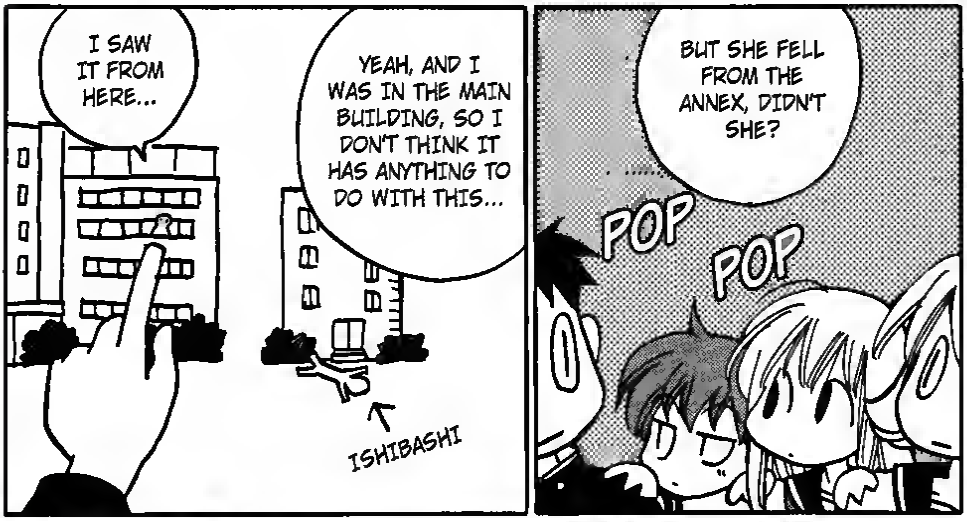

AH
.....
LOKI-KUN WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
A HA HA HEY COME BACK !!

A...AN ACCIDENT?

EY...BY ANY CHANCE... AM I GONNA BE CLEANING UP ALONE...?
I'M COMING TOO!
TAP TAP TAP TAP

THERE'S NO WAY THAT WASN'T A MURDER...!!
I THINK SO TOO!

D-DO YOU THINK IT WAS ISHI-BASHI-SENSEI!?
POP
WHEN THE COSTUME CONTEST WAS GOING ON, I SAW SOME-THING FALL PAST THE THIRD FLOOR WINDOW.
OH YEAH, ABOUT THE GRUDGES OR WHATEVER, I SAW SOME-THING WEIRD THE OTHER DAY...
YEAH, BUT EVEN IF IT REALLY WAS AN ACCIDENT, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S COS OF BULLIED KID'S GRUDGES...


I SAW IT FROM HERE...
YEAH, AND I WAS IN THE MAIN BUILDING, SO I DON'T THINK IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS...
ISHIBASHI
BUT SHE FELL FROM THE ANNEX, DIDN'T SHE?
POP
POP

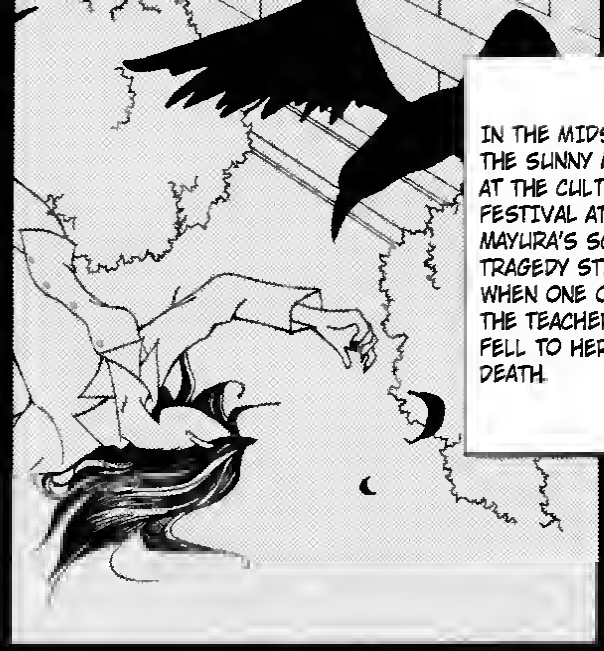
LIKE, THE SOUL LEAVING THE BODY AT THE POINT OF DEATH!?
YEEK...
AH! WHAT IF IT WAS ISHIBASHI-SENSEI'S SPIRIT OR SOMETHING!?

HEY, MAYURA, HOW ABOUT WE GO INTO THE ANNEX?
THE SCENE OF THE CRIME? I'M NOT SURE...
I HEARD NARUGAMI-KUN WAS IN THE ANNEX DURING THE COSTUME CONTEST...
OH.. YEAH THAT'S RIGHT.
....
WE SHOULD ASK HIM LATER IF HE SAW ANYTHING STRANGE...
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, LOKI-KU-...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S GONE THIS FAR...
AW, I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT NOT LET US IN...
DO NOT ENTER

WELL, WAIT A SEC, WHAT IF IT WAS A SUICIDE...?
NO WAY!! SHE WAS SUCH AN EGOTIST, THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULD HAVE DONE THAT!
SO, WHAT, YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE REALLY KILLED HER?
WELL.... WHAT IF...
WHAT IF OUR RITUAL REALLY WORKED...?
WH- WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT!?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

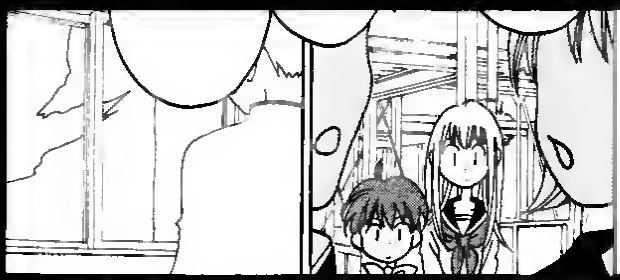
MAYBE WE REALLY DID CALL DIVINE PUNISHMENT DOWN ON HER...
MAYBE WE REALLY DID SUMMON DOWN AN ANGEL!
.....
PWAH

NIGHT 7
AN ANGEL WITH BLACK WINGS
(PART 2)



IN THE MIDST OF THE SUNNY MOOD AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL AT MAYURA'S SCHOOL, TRAGEDY STRUCK WHEN ONE OF THE TEACHERS FELL TO HER DEATH.

THE POLICE RULED IT AN "ACCIDENTAL DEATH" DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE TEACHER WAS VERY DISAGREEABLE. RUMORS FLY AMONGST THE STUDENT BODY THAT THE TEACHER WAS MURDERED BY SOMEONE. LOKI, WHO WAS ON SCENE THAT DAY, HAS RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WITH MAYURA AND YAMINO TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SITUATION.



A WITNESS CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN AN INEXPLICABLE VISION OF THE VICTIM'S SOUL FLEEING HER BODY FROM THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING.

DURING THEIR INVESTIGATION, LOKI AND THE REST ENCOUNTERED THE MEMBERS OF THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE UTTERING THIS MYSTERIOUS PHRASE, "WHAT IF OUR RITUAL REALLY WORKED...?"

WHAT RITUAL ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT!? WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF THE MYSTERIOUS WITNESS TESTIMONY...? AND WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS TRANSFER STUDENT WHO SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING LOKI AND YAMINO AROUND...!!

THE TRUTH IS YET TO COME....!

THE MORNING ASSEMBLY WAS LOOONG...
IT'S BECAUSE OF ISHIBASHI-SENSEI'S ACCIDENT....
I TOTALLY BELIEVE IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT THOUGH!!
EVERY-ONE THINKS SO...
OH, HEY DID YOU HEAR THAT THING ABOUT THE TEACHER'S SPIRIT IN THE MAIN BUILDING??
MAN, I HEARD THAT AGES AGO!
YOU DIDN'T SEE HER!?
YEAH, I DIDN'T MEET ISHIBASHI, YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
REALLY?
IT'S JUST THAT IF YOU DIDN'T, THEN THERE'S NO ONE WHO SAW ISHIBASHI-SENSEI IN THE ANNEX.
.....

I GOTTA GO TO WORK!
AH!
!?
BY THE WAY, WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE ANNEX, NARUGAMI-KUN?
I DON'T HAVE TO TELLT YOU ANYTHING!!
THE TWELFTH RULE OF THE PART-TIME WORKER MARATHON MAN
IF I'M LATE THEY'LL CUT MY PAY!
NARUGAMI-KUN, WAI-!
DASH

HMM...
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING...

SO IT TURNS OUT THERE'S NOT ONE PERSON WHO SAW ISHIBASHI-SENSEI IN THE ANNEX.
HOW'D I DO? TELL ME HOW GREAT I AM AT DETAILED INVESTIGATION PLEAAAASE~!

PUNYAN
AN ARROGAN ATTITUDE
SO, WHAT CONNECTION DID THE GIRLS IN THE COMMITTEE HAVE WITH ISHIBASHI-SENSEI?
HMPH.
YEAH, GOOD JOB, WHATEVER. THERE, I PRAISED YOU.
2-C MIHO ARAI
2-C HARUE ABE
...IF SOMETHING HAPPENED IN CLASS, SHE BLAMED THESE TWO.
...TAUGHT JUNIOR ENGLISH AND...
TWITCH TWITCH
....WELL YOU SEE, SHE....
2-A RITSUKO ORIHARA
2-B NANAKO ITOU
RITSUKO-SAN SEEMS TO BE THE ONE THE TEACHER FOUGHT WITH THE MOST. THEY HAVE AN ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIP.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING ABOUT NANAKO-SAN... SHE SEEMS TO BE A REALLY QUIET PERSON.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK LOKI-KUN...?
THE POLICE RULED IT AN ACCIDENT, BUT...
.....
IT SEEMS SHE ALSO HAD SUBSTANTIAL INITIATIVE.
CHOCOLAT
WELL... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW YET. IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE GIRLS' ALIBIS...
TP
WE ALSO CAN'T SAY ANY-THING FOR SURE WITHOUT KNOWING WHY ISHIBASHI-SENSEI'S MANICURE WAS COMING OFF...
OR WHAT EXACTLY THE MYSTERIOUS SHADOW THAT FELL PAST THE WINDOW OF THE MAIN BUILDING WAS...
SIP
HNH
CHOCOLAT
WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT WHEN THEY SAID, "OUR RITUAL"?
I THINK... THERE'S ONE MORE THING THAT I'M KINDA WORRIED ABOUT...

THAT IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE ANCIENT MAGICKS THE ONE NOW KNOWN AS "PRACTICAL KABBALAH."
USING A MAGICAL CIRCLE, THE PRACTITIONERS CALL UPON THE FOUR ARCHANGELS IN A FORMAL RITUAL.

.....
.....
ALTHOUGH... AMATEURS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT WORK...

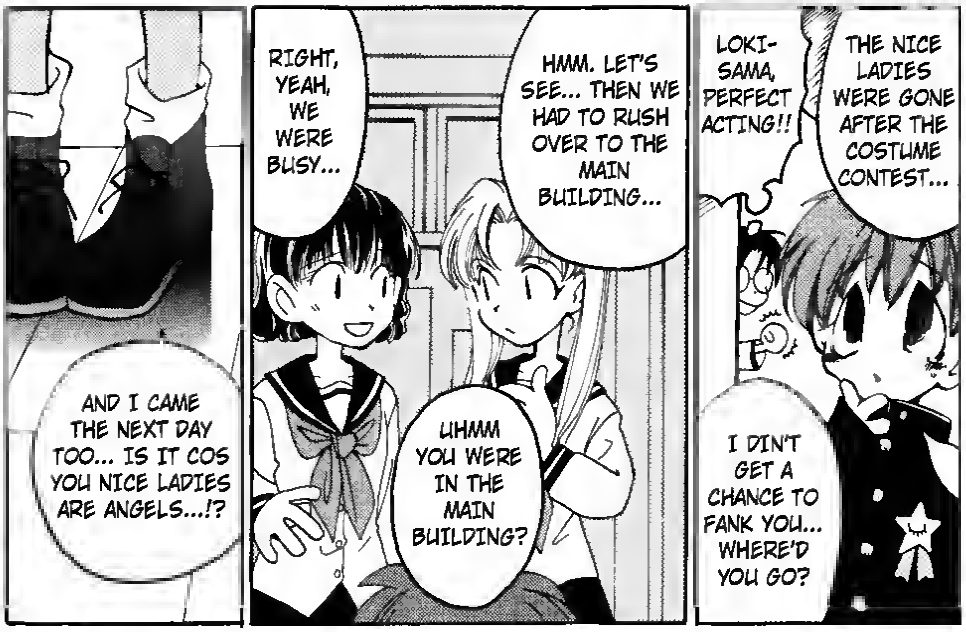
HUH

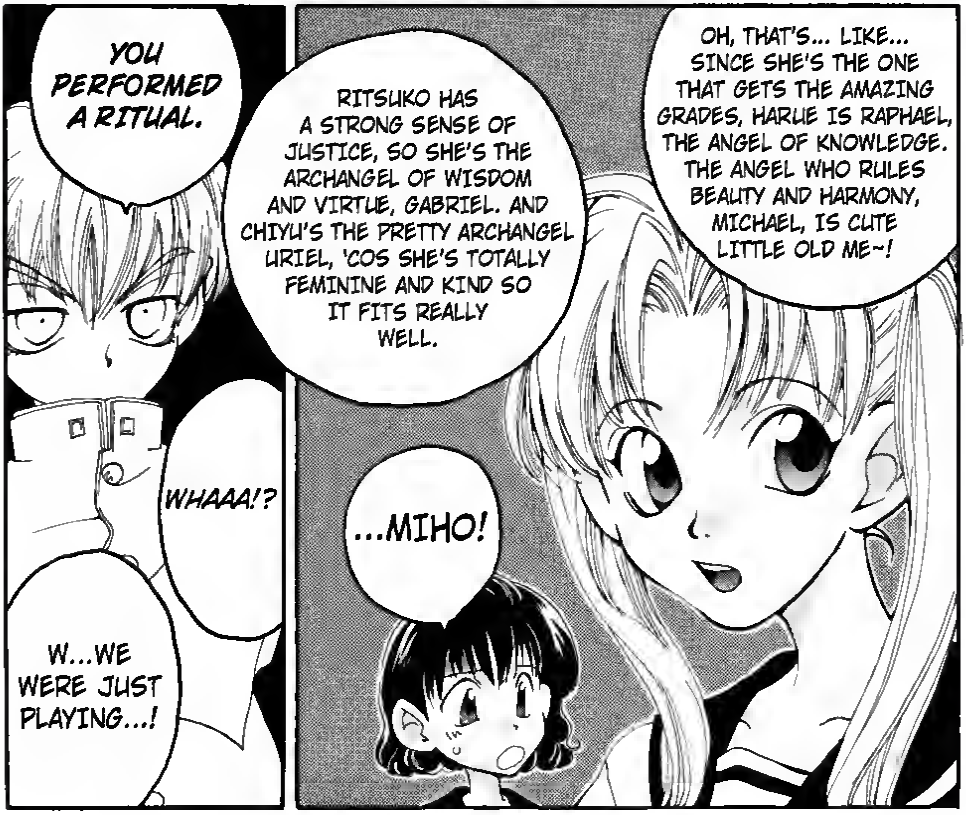
TOMORROW I'LL BE COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL, SO WAIT FOR ME AFTERWARD, MAYURA!
AN ANGEL

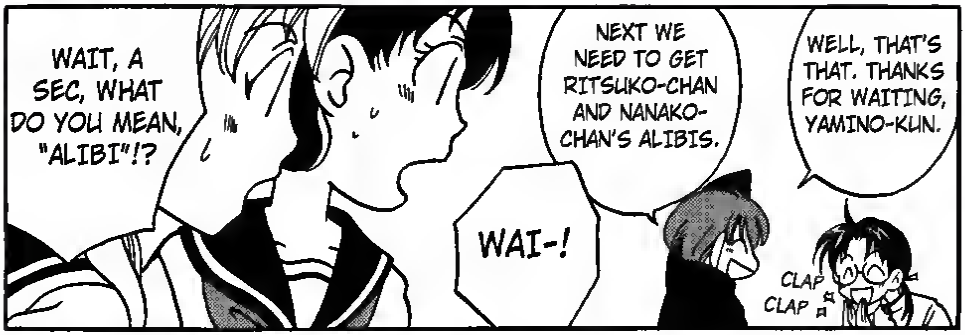
I WONDER HOW LOKI-KUN'S PLANNING ON COMING HERE?
YOO HOO!! MAYURA!!
BUH BYE!
SO IT'S AFTER SCHOOL, NOW WHAT.
OH, CLUB TIME!
!?
I'M DISGUISED AS A STUDENT!!
TA DA
NO ONE WILL SUSPECT ME IN THIS OUTFIT, RIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A HIGH SCHOOLER!!
WAAA

2 - C
HEH
AND AS FOR ME....
IF YOU GET CAUGHT BY A TEACHER, I'M NOT GONNA SAVE YOU...!!
NO ONE'S GONNA CATCH ME!
SO, YOU GO COLLECT MORE INFO ON ISHIBASHI-SENSEI, OKAYY?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU WANT TO DO ANOTHER COSTUME CONTEST?
OH, HEY, YOU'RE THE BOY FROM THAT TIME AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL...
FANK YOU BERY MUCH
AWWWW... WHAT A GOOD BOY YOU ARE....
UM... WELL... MY PAPA SAID I SHOULD BE POLITE AND SAY THANK YOU TO THE NICE LADIES WHO HELPED ME THAT DAY AND EVERYTHING...
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT YOUR PAPA!!


AND I CAME THE NEXT DAY TOO... IS IT COS YOU NICE LADIES ARE ANGELS...!?
RIGHT, YEAH, WE WERE BUSY...
HMM. LET'S SEE... THEN WE HAD TO RUSH OVER TO THE MAIN BUILDING...
UHMM YOU WERE IN THE MAIN BUILDING?
LOKI-SAMA, PERFECT ACTING!!
THE NICE LADIES WERE GONE AFTER THE COSTUME CONTEST...
I DIN'T GET A CHANCE TO FANK YOU... WHERE'D YOU GO?

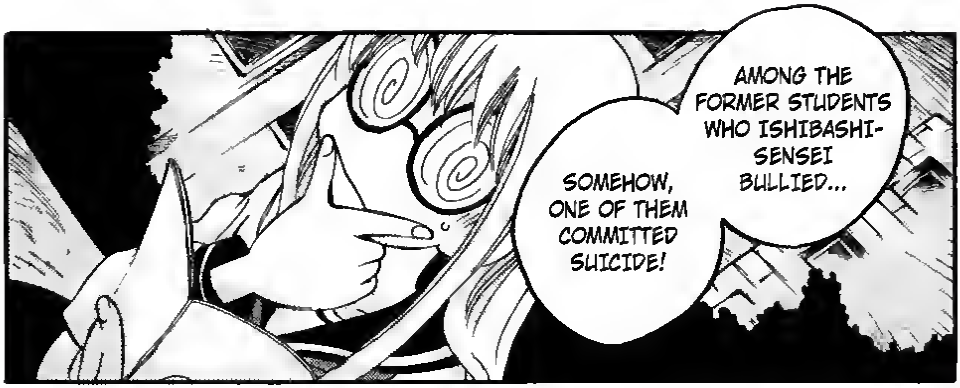

YOU PERFORMED A RITUAL.
WHAAA!?
W...WE WERE JUST PLAYING...!
RITSUKO HAS A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE, SO SHE'S THE ARCHANGEL OF WISDOM AND VIRTUE, GABRIEL. AND CHIYU'S THE PRETTY ARCHANGEL URIEL, 'COS SHE'S TOTALLY FEMININE AND KIND SO IT FITS REALLY WELL.
OH, THAT'S... LIKE... SINCE SHE'S THE ONE THAT GETS THE AMAZING GRADES, HARUE IS RAPHAEL, THE ANGEL OF KNOWLEDGE. THE ANGEL WHO RULES BEAUTY AND HARMONY, MICHAEL, IS CUTE LITTLE OLD ME~!
...MIHO!

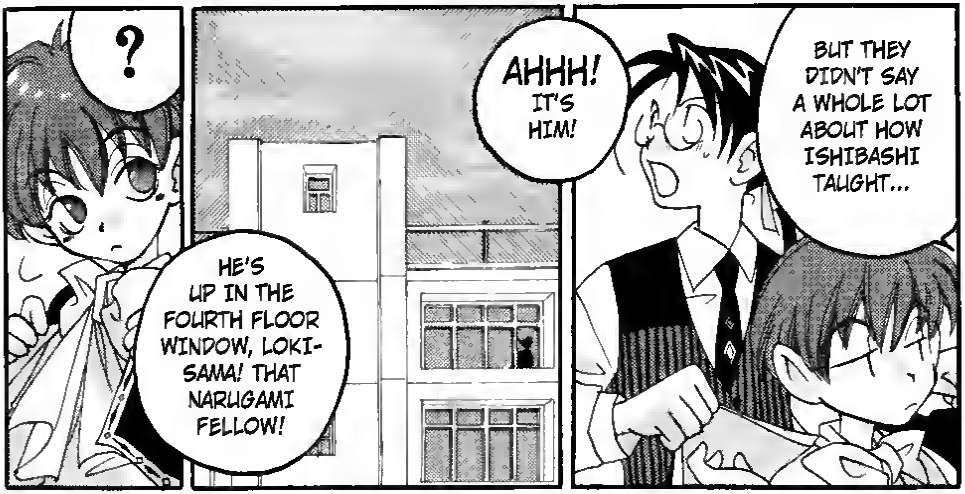

WAIT, A SEC, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALIBI"!?
WAI-!
NEXT WE NEED TO GET RITSUKO-CHAN AND NANAKO-CHAN'S ALIBIS.
WELL, THAT'S THAT. THANKS FOR WAITING, YAMINO-KUN.
CLAP CLAP

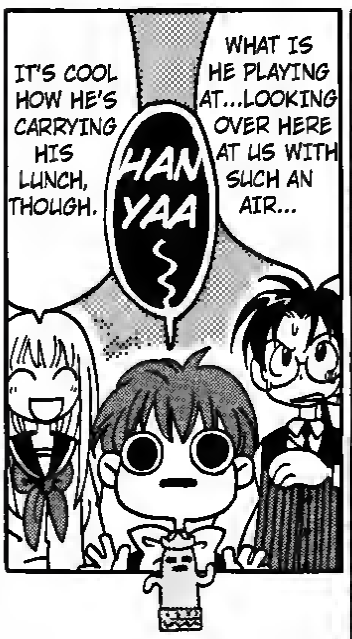
I'M A DETECTIVE, YOU SEE.
I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE I'VE CHECKED OVER ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING.
!?
2-B
OH, YOU'RE THE MISSING CHILD FROM THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL!!
.....

HEY YOU
SO ALL FOUR OF YOU WERE IN THE MAIN BUILDING, HUHH?
YOU HEAR THAT, PAN-CHAN?
AH, THAT TIME, HM? I WAS IN THE MAIN BUILDING.
ME AND RITSUKO MET UP AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOF.
WHY ARE YOU WANDERING AROUND INVESTIGATING US!?
RITSUKO...
BUT MY DISGUISE WAS SO PER-FECT...
AHHH, THEY FIGURED ME OUT?
NO WAY....
HEY, WHY'S THERE A KID AT THIS SCHOOL...!?
YAMINO C'MERE!!

I WONDER HOW THEY FIGURED ME OUT?
IT'S A REAL MYSTERY!
WHAT'S HE AFTER...
ALIBI!?
THAT KID... HE WAS ASKING MIHO AND HARUE ABOUT THEIR ALIBIS...
1
SO HERE'S THE NUMBER ONE SCOOP!
YEAH, I DID! ISHIBASHI-SENSEI'S A HOT TOPIC ALL OVER SCHOOL, SO IF THERE IS ANY-THING, IT'LL COME OUT, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT!
MAYURA-CHAN'S DETECTIVE NOTES
HOW'D IT GO ON YOUR END, MAYURA? YOU FIGURE ANYTHING OUT?
NOT.. REALLY..

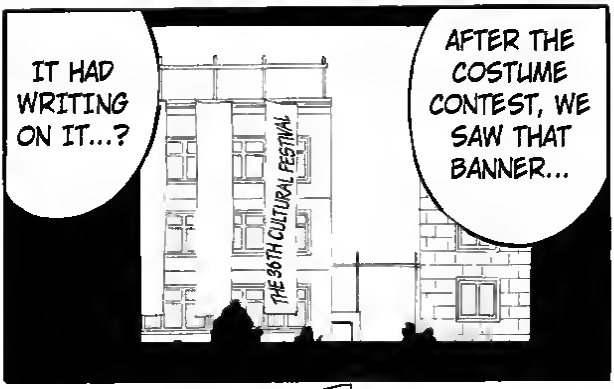

AMONG THE FORMER STUDENTS WHO ISHIBASHI-SENSEI BULLIED...
SOMEHOW, ONE OF THEM COMMITTED SUICIDE!


?
HE'S UP IN THE FOURTH FLOOR WINDOW, LOKI-SAMA! THAT NARUGAMI FELLOW!
AHHH! IT'S HIM!
BUT THEY DIDN'T SAY A WHOLE LOT ABOUT HOW ISHIBASHI TAUGHT...


IT'S COOL HOW HE'S CARRYING HIS LUNCH, THOUGH.
HAN YAA
WHAT IS HE PLAYING AT...LOOKING OVER HERE AT US WITH SUCH AN AIR...

THE BANNER ON THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL...!
.....I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING VITAL!

THE ONE THAT MAYURA READ BACK-WARDS.
OH YEAH THAT "LAVITSEF LARUTLUC" ONE!?

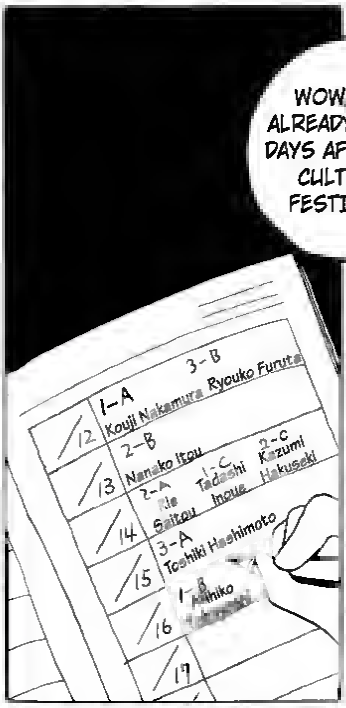

IT HAD WRITING ON IT...?
THE 36TH CULTURAL FESTIVAL
AFTER THE COSTUME CONTEST, WE SAW THAT BANNER...

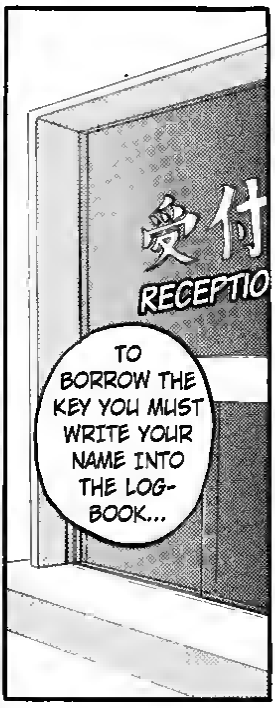
THE 36TH CULTURAL FESTIVAL
WHAT IF IT WASN'T HUNG UPSIDE-DOWN, AS WE HAD THOUGHT...
BUT INSTEAD, IT WAS MEANT TO BE HUNG SIDEWAYS...
AH, YES, THAT WAY IT WOULD BE A LOT MORE READ-ABLE.

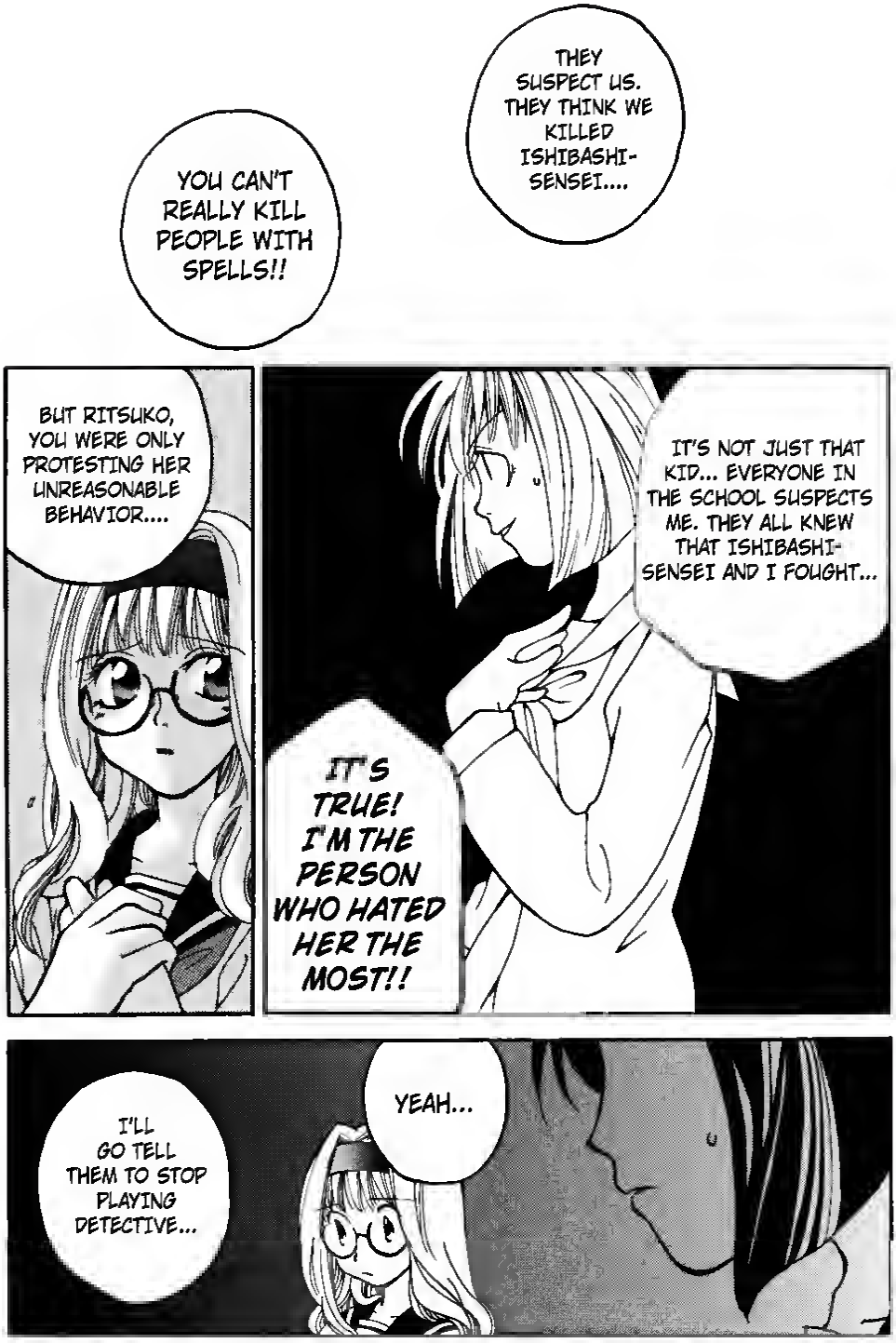
I MEAN, ISHIBASHI-SENSEI FELL FROM THE ANNEX, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST THAT, THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CASE, DOES IT, LOKI-KUN?
FOI

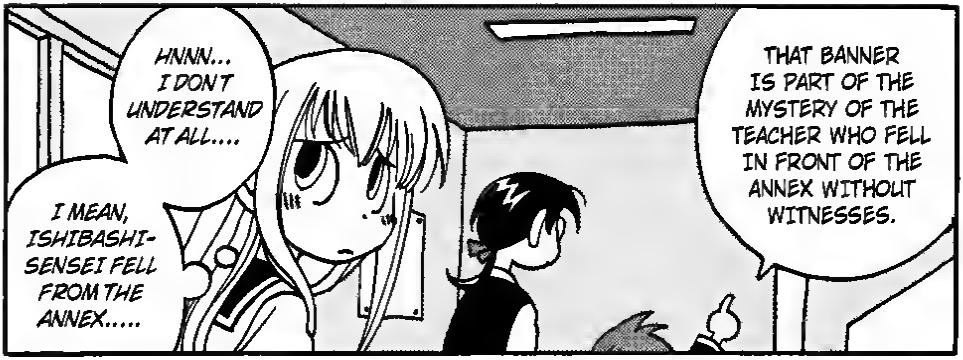
DO WE EVEN HAVE TO GO UP ON THE ROO-
NARM
NARM
NARM
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT I GET IT!!

LET'S LOOK FOR SOME EVIDENCE ON THE ROOF, MAYURA.
IF THE HANGER ON THE LEFT SIDE FAILED.. WELL, IT'S A POSSIBILITY WE HAVE TO CHECK OUT.
WAIT A SEC, JUST WAIT A SEC!!

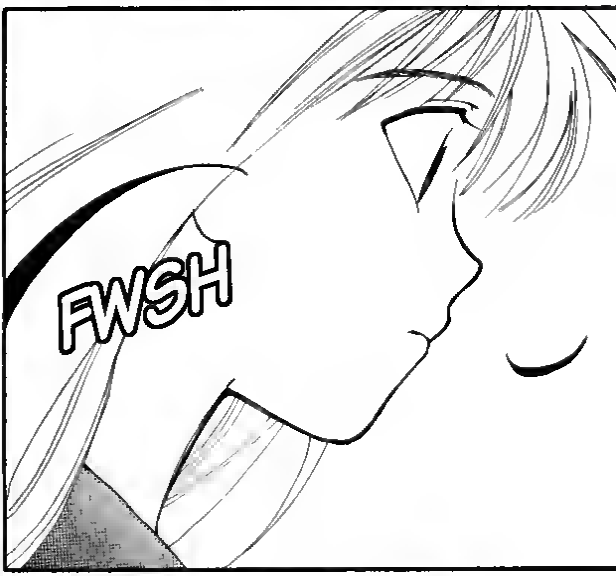

WOW. IT'S ALREADY THREE DAYS AFTER THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL...
TODAY IS...
12 1-A Kouji Nakamura 3-B Ryouko Furuta
13 2-B Nanako Itou
14 2-A Ide Saitou 1-C Tadashi Inoue 2-C Kazumi Hakuseki
15 3-A Toshiki Hashimoto
16 1-B Aiiniko
17

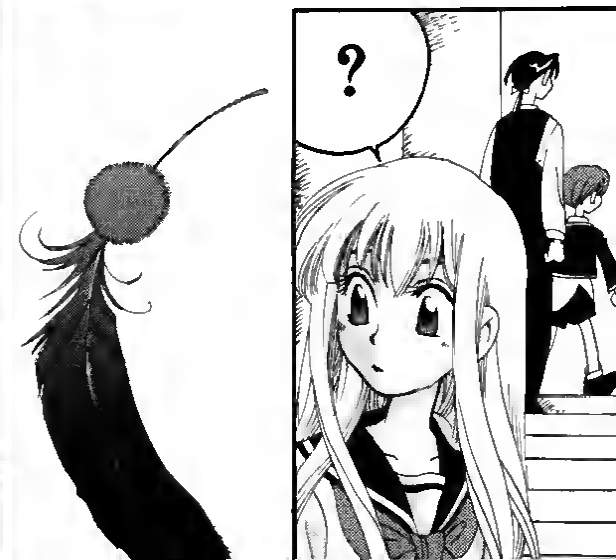

受付
RECEPTIO
TO BORROW THE KEY YOU MUST WRITE YOUR NAME INTO THE LOG-BOOK...


THEY SUSPECT US. THEY THINK WE KILLED ISHIBASHI-SENSEI....
YOU CAN'T REALLY KILL PEOPLE WITH SPELLS!!
BUT RITSUKO, YOU WERE ONLY PROTESTING HER UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOR....
IT'S NOT JUST THAT KID... EVERYONE IN THE SCHOOL SUSPECTS ME. THEY ALL KNEW THAT ISHIBASHI-SENSEI AND I FOUGHT...
IT'S TRUE! I'M THE PERSON WHO HATED HER THE MOST!!
YEAH...
I'LL GO TELL THEM TO STOP PLAYING DETECTIVE...

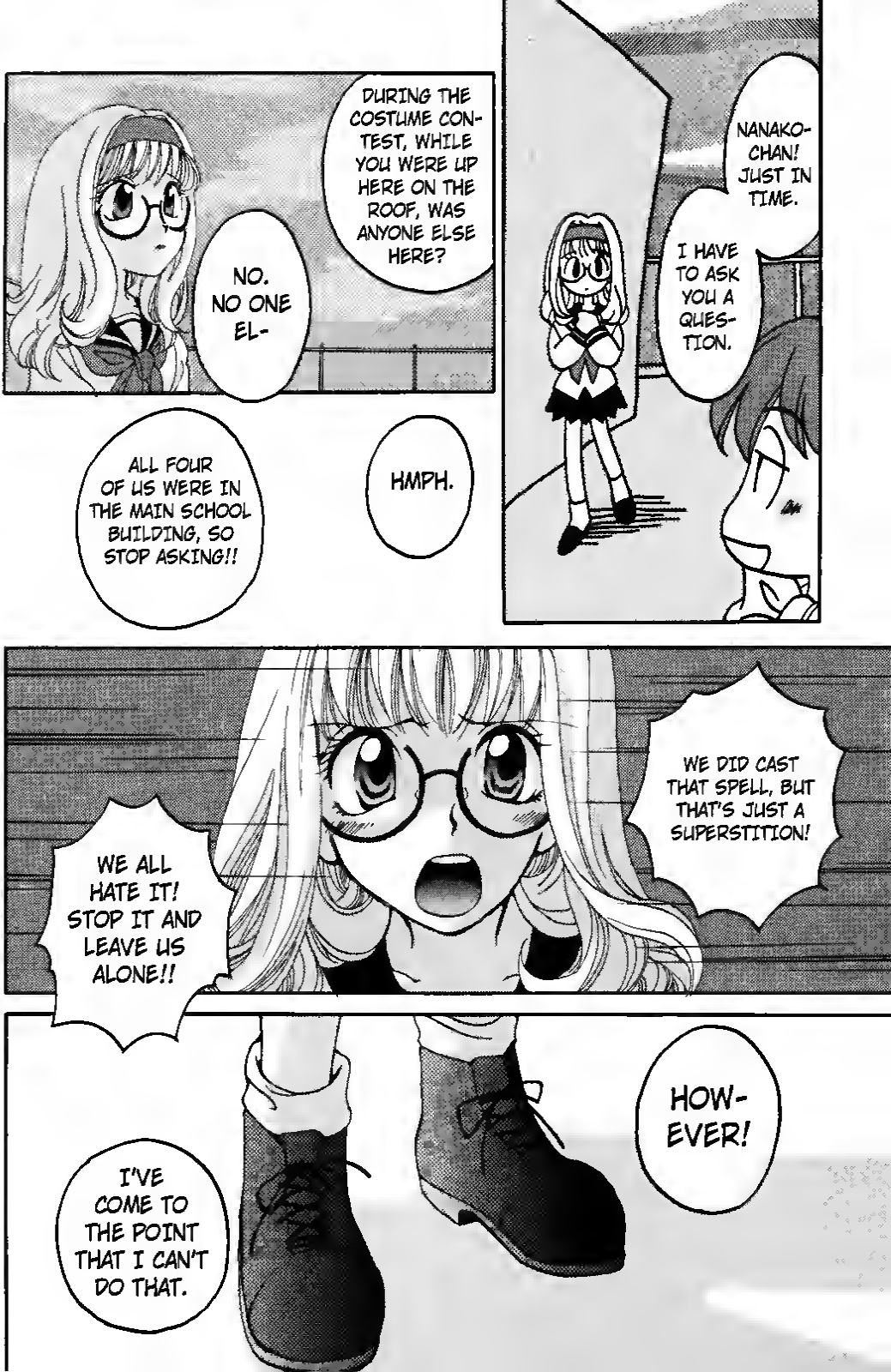

HNNN... I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL....
I MEAN, ISHIBASHI-SENSEI FELL FROM THE ANNEX.....
THAT BANNER IS PART OF THE MYSTERY OF THE TEACHER WHO FELL IN FRONT OF THE ANNEX WITHOUT WITNESSES.

A BLACK FEATHE- ....?


FWSH


?

I WONDER IF IT'S NOT THE STRING THAT WAS HOLDING UP THE BANNER.
THIS STRING...!!
WHAT ARE THESE RED MARKS...? THEY LOOK LIKE SCRATCHES....
LIKELY ISHIBASHI-SENSEI'S MANICURE MARKS....
IF THAT'S INDEED WHAT THEY ARE...
HM? BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MAYURA-SAN GOTTEN TO...?
PARDON ME... I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU....


NANAKO-CHAN! JUST IN TIME.
I HAVE TO ASK YOU A QUES-TION.
DURING THE COSTUME CON-TEST, WHILE YOU WERE UP HERE ON THE ROOF, WAS ANYONE ELSE HERE?
NO. NO ONE EL-
HMPH.
ALL FOUR OF US WERE IN THE MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING, SO STOP ASKING!!
WE DID CAST THAT SPELL, BUT THAT'S JUST A SUPERSTITION!
WE ALL HATE IT! STOP IT AND LEAVE US ALONE!!
HOW-EVER!
I'VE COME TO THE POINT THAT I CAN'T DO THAT.

ISHIBASHI-SENSEI FELL FROM THIS BUILDING, THE MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING.
WHAT!?
B... BUT... SHE WAS FOUND IN FRONT OF THE ANNEX BUILDING... WASN'T SHE.....?
YES, BUT SHE FELL FROM HERE...
ANNEX
SHE CLUNG DESPERATELY TO THE BANNER BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE STRING BROKE... SHE WHIRLED IN THE AIR LIKE A PENDULUM...
AND FELL IN FRONT OF THE ANNEX!!
THIS IS WHAT THE STUDENTS IN THE MAIN BUILDING SAW AS THE PASSING SPIRIT OF THE DYING TEACHER!

12
1-A
2-B
13
2-A
1-C
2-C
14
3-A
YOU JUST SAID THAT NO ONE ELSE CAME UP TO THE ROOF THAT DAY, DIDN'T YOU?
AND ON THAT DAY YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO TOOK OUT THE KEY TO GET UP HERE.
WHICH MEANS THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE COMMITTED THE MURDER, NANAKO ITOU!!
HOW IS IT GOING? ARE YOU HANGING IT RIGHT?
UM, YES.....

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE THE SISTER OF THAT ITOU GIRL WHO GRADUATED AND THEN KILLED HERSELF FOR NO REASON, AREN'T YOU....?
STARTING A BUNCH OF WILD RUMORS ABOUT ME... I CAN'T LET THAT KIND OF THING GO WITHOUT PAYBACK.
HMPH. NOW INSOLENT STUDENTS LIKE REIKO ORIHARA FEEL LIKE THEY CAN TALK BACK TO ME. WHAT A PAIN.
THAT WOMAN RUINED MY SISTER'S CHANCE AT A FUTURE!!

...AND NOW I, THE DEMON URIEL, POSSESS HER!!
...THAT'S WHY YOU ACTUALLY CAME TO THEM.
HMPH. A SMALL-FRY DEMON LIKE YOURSELF, I WILL DEFEAT YOU EASILY.

FWOOSH!!
....I SAW THAT AMONG THE FOUR...
THIS CHILD WAS THE ONE MOST FILLED WITH HATRED...
SHE WAS SO KIND AND SO CONSCIENTIOUS AND I LOVED HER SO....
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY EVEN THOUGH YOU SEEMED TO HAVE NO REASON TO HATE ISHIBASHI-SENSEI YOU JOINED THEIR GROUP.
AND WHY EVEN THOUGH THEIR RITUAL WAS HALF-PRETEND...

SWISH
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
M-MAYURA-SAN!!
.....
THE CONTRACT FROM THE ORIGINAL RITUAL IS COMPLETE...
PERHAPS I SHALL TAKE THIS GIRL AND THIS BODY AS MY PAYMENT...

SLASH
....
FARE THEE WELL, HUMANS !!
!?

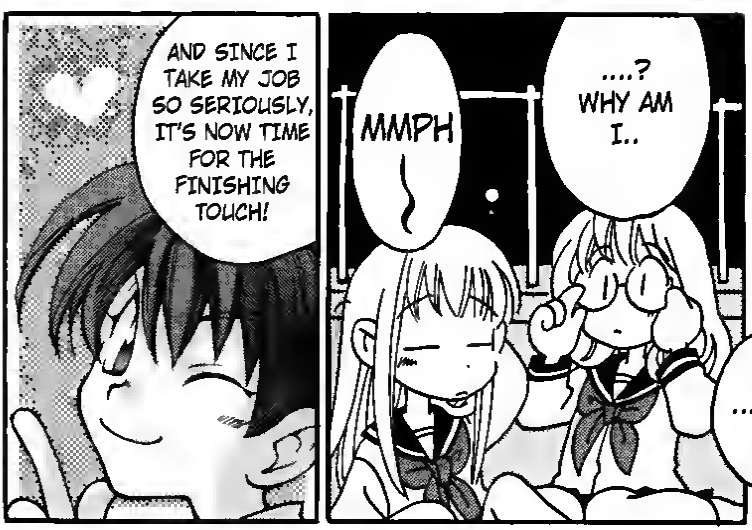
TMP
THOU, DEMON WHO TAKES ON THE NAME OF AN ANGEL!! THE RETRIBUTION OF JUSTICE SHALL BE STRICT!
NARU-GAMI-SAN!?

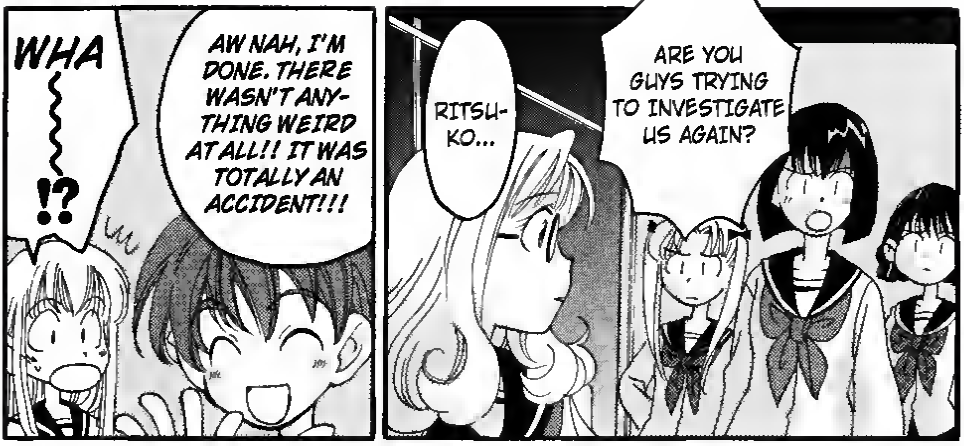
GRAB
FLP
SHIT, ANOTHER ONE OF YOU...
I MAY AS WELL TAKE ONLY THE BODY THEN....!
I HAVE A PROPER PRESCRIPTION FOR EXORCISING A SUMMONED DEMON, BUT...
YOU'VE REALLY PISSED ME OFF THIS TIME, SO I'M GONNA
EAT YOU!
YIEEE, W- WHAT ARE YOU...!?
SOMETHING MUCH, MUUUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU ARE...
I AM A GOD!

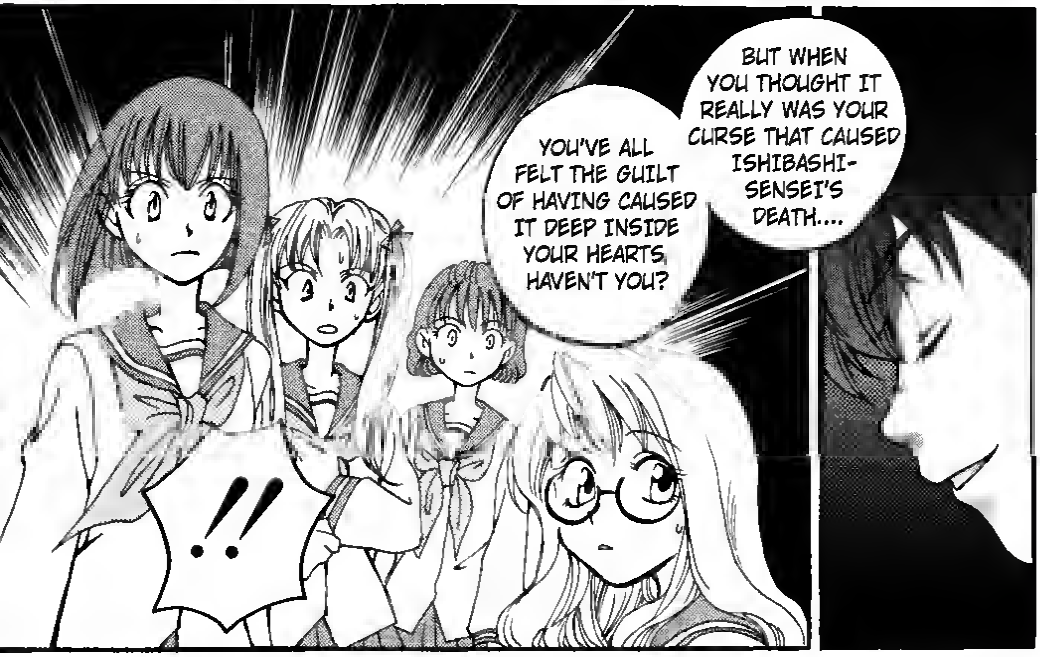
ZZZ
BWSH!!!
GEH!
UUGH, THAT DEMON TASTED AWFUL.
I KNEW IT... I KNEW YOU MUST BE *THE* LOKI
BUT WHY THE CHILD'S FORM?

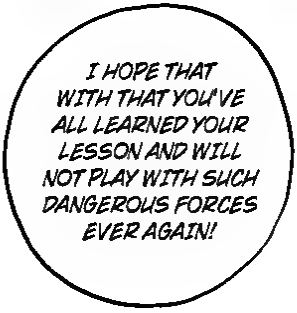
D-DO YOU KNOW HIM, LOKI-SAMA?
YES... AND SO DO YOU, YAMINO-KUN. HE'S A NORSE GOD AS WELL, A MEMBER OF OUR SAME PANTHEON...
THOR, GOD OF THUNDER.
HMPH. DON'T TRY TO PUT ME ON THE SAME LEVEL AS YOU, TRICKSTER.
I SEEK JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD, UNLIKE YOURSELF.
WELL THEN, NARU KAMI-KUN
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

I DON'T KNOW WHY. I WAS JUST SUDDENLY DRAGGED HERE...
LOKI! TELL ME THE WAY BACK!
I WAS TOLD BY THE HIGH DIETY WHEN I WAS BANISHED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO RETURN WAS TO DEFEAT THE EVIL THAT INFESTED HUMAN HEARTS....
YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN WAY TO RETURN.

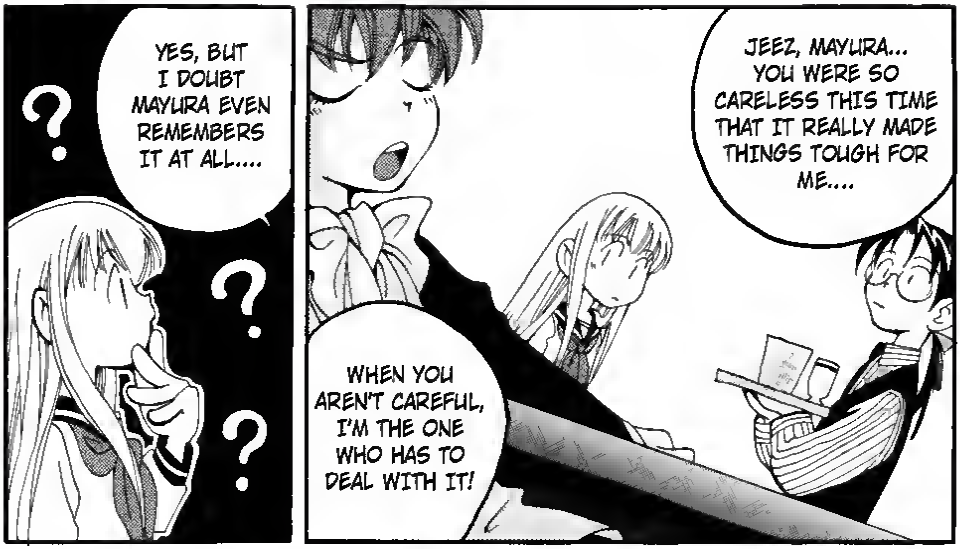

AND SINCE I TAKE MY JOB SO SERIOUSLY, IT'S NOW TIME FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH!
MMPH
....? WHY AM I..
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
...MN...


WHA
!?
AW NAH, I'M DONE. THERE WASN'T ANY-THING WEIRD AT ALL!! IT WAS TOTALLY AN ACCIDENT!!!
RITSU-KO...
ARE YOU GUYS TRYING TO INVESTIGATE US AGAIN?


!!
YOU'VE ALL FELT THE GUILT OF HAVING CAUSED IT DEEP INSIDE YOUR HEARTS, HAVEN'T YOU?
BUT WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT REALLY WAS YOUR CURSE THAT CAUSED ISHIBASHI-SENSEI'S DEATH....


I HOPE THAT WITH THAT YOU'VE ALL LEARNED YOUR LESSON AND WILL NOT PLAY WITH SUCH DANGEROUS FORCES EVER AGAIN!

YES, SIR...
YAMINO-KUN... GO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT...
ALL THAT INVESTIGATING AND YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME IT WAS AN ACCIDENT ALL ALONG!?
ARGH
GRR
WH-? REALLY?
BUT, I WAS IMPRESSED BY YOUR CAREFUL INVESTIGATION, MAYURA-SAN....
OR SOMETHING!
OMG! YAMINO-SAN PRAISED ME~~♡
OH GOODNESS, IT SEEMS IT BACKFIRED...
.....


YES, BUT I DOUBT MAYURA EVEN REMEMBERS IT AT ALL....
?
?
?
JEEZ, MAYURA... YOU WERE SO CARELESS THIS TIME THAT IT REALLY MADE THINGS TOUGH FOR ME....
WHEN YOU AREN'T CAREFUL, I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO DEAL WITH IT!

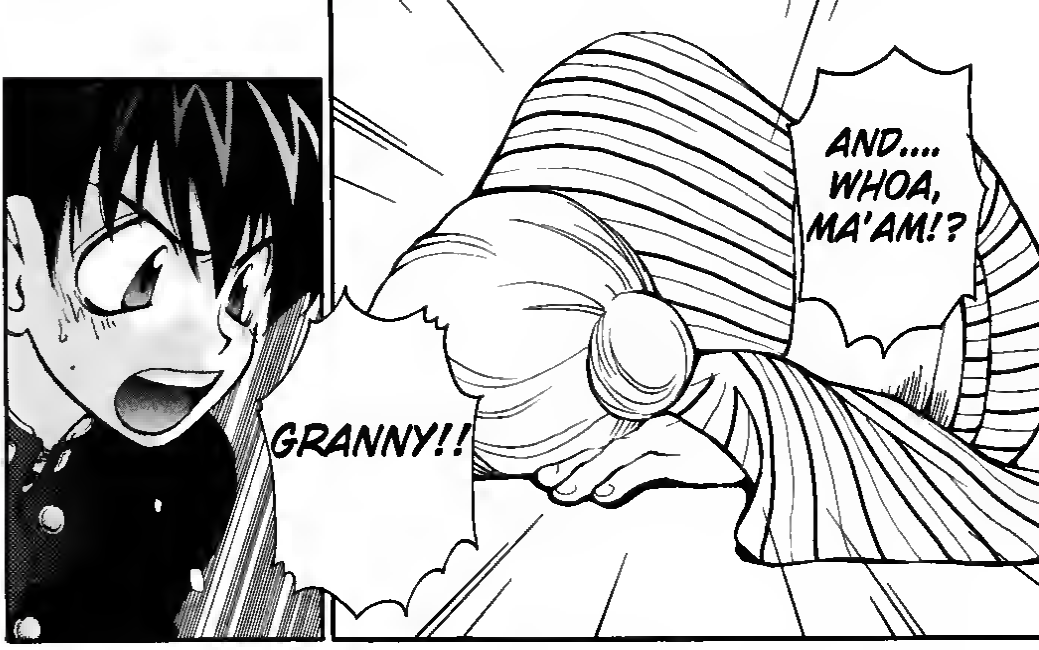
BANG!
HEY LOKI!! HOW COME YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO GETS TO LIVE IN THIS HUGE MANSION?
W....!
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT FROM!?
WAIT... DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME, LOKI-KUN?

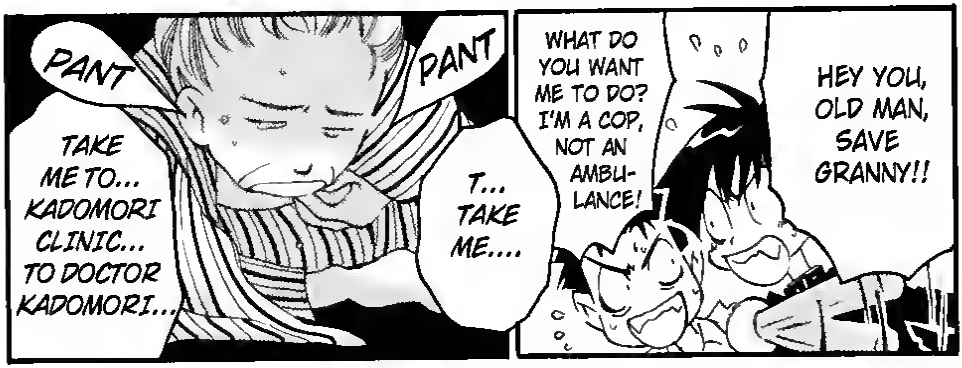
YOU'RE PERSISTENT AREN'T YOU... HEY, LOKI, DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WOMAN.
HEY, THAT REMINDS ME, YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHERE YOU WENT WHEN YOU SKIPPED OUT ON YOUR TAKOYAKI STAND! WHERE?
YEE EEE EEE LO-KI-SA-MAAA
NARUGAMI-KUN... ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH LOKI-KUN...? I HAD NO IDEA....
SHI-VER SHI-VER
OF COURSE NOT!! I JUST....
TCH
I WENT TO THE FREEZER IN THE ANNEX TO GET SOME INGREDIENTS, THAT'S ALL!
DID THE SEEKER OF JUSTICE DO SOMETHING UNSPEAK-ABLE?
I JUST GOT AN OCTOPUS STUCK TO MY FACE AND PASSED OUT!
GYUU
TURN AWAY
WHAT, BORING...
YEAH... PRETTY UNSPEAK-ABLE....
PFF

NIGHT 8
A HARD-BOILED DAWN

GULP
GULP
MILK
ESPECIALLY SINCE I SPENT A HARD-BOILED NIGHT ON A STAKEOUT...
AND NOW IT'S TIME TO SPEND THE DAY BEING LAZY AS HELL....
THE MORNING SUN IS DAZZLING!!
AHH
FIGHTING
闘魂
SPIRIT
!?
RAAA AAGH !!
TAKE THAAAT
WOOSH

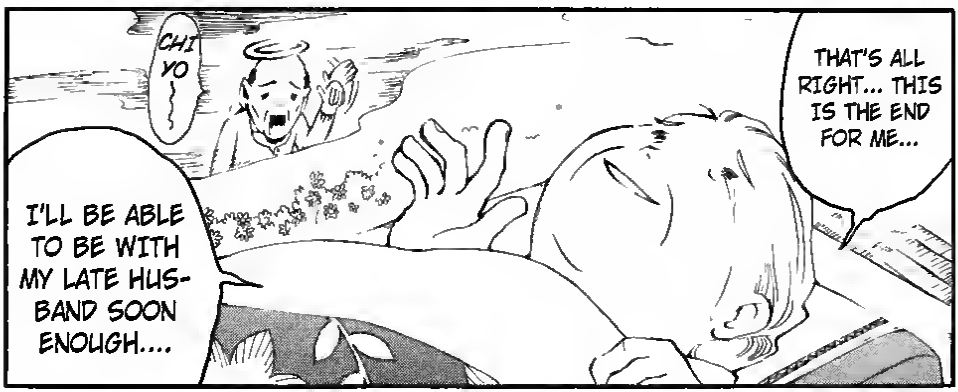
HM? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD...?
YES, I HAVEN'T BEEN FEELING TOO WELL THESE DAYS...
HEY, YOU! SCHOOL-KID!!
STOMP
STOMP
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, KID?
SCREAMIN' AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS FROM THE BREAK OF DAWN...
WOBBLE...
OH, NO WORRIES NARU-CHAN. HAVE A GOOD TRIP TO SCHOOL, NOW.
SORRY FOR MAKIN' YOU MAKE MY LUNCH ALL THE TIME, GRANNY LANDLADY...
WH- WHAT THE HELL...


GRANNY!!
AND.... WHOA, MA'AM!?


PANT
PANT
TAKE ME TO... KADOMORI CLINIC... TO DOCTOR KADOMORI...
T... TAKE ME....
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? I'M A COP, NOT AN AMBU-LANCE!
HEY YOU, OLD MAN, SAVE GRANNY!!

PHEW
PHEW... I FEEL A LITTLE BIT BETTER...

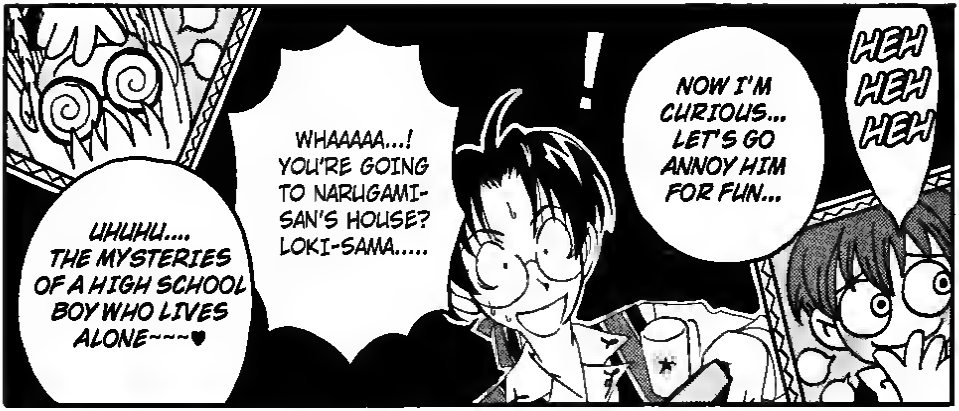
CHIYO-SAN, AS YOUR DOCTOR, I'M WORRIED.
THESE ATTACKS HAVE BECOME MORE FREQUENT RECENTLY...
IT'S VERY LUCKY THAT THESE GENTLEMEN WERE NEAR... GIVEN THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY FAMILY...


THAT'S ALL RIGHT... THIS IS THE END FOR ME...
CHI YO
I'LL BE ABLE TO BE WITH MY LATE HUSBAND SOON ENOUGH....

DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS, GRANNY!!
HEY CUT IT OUT... NO YELLIN' IN THE HOSPITAL !!
DOOOOOO
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE SO THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL WORRY ABOUT YOU... I INCLUDE MYSELF IN THAT.
HERE, I'M GIVING YOU THE USUAL HERBAL REMEDY.

WHAT'S WITH THAT OLD GUY...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP...
TAKE IT PLEASE... IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS, CALL AND I WILL COME RIGHT AWAY.
AND I'M GONNA GO TO SLEEP...
SO TODAY LET ME TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU!
LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!
OH YEAH, I FORGOT
NARU-CHAN, YOU SHOULD GO OFF TO SCHOOL NOW, TOO...
WELL... YOU LET ME NOT PAY MY RENT ON TIME, AND EVERY DAY YOU MAKE MY LUNCH....
BEING POOR SUCKS...
YOU TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME, GRANNY!
SNIFFLE

M.. MJOLNWHA!?
TODAY HE SPENT THE WHOLE CLASS CARVING THIS NONSENSE WORD "MJOLNIR" INTO HIS WOODEN SWORD. TEACHER WAS MAAAD...
MAN, THAT NARUGAMI-KUN SURE IS A WEIRD GUY...
WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
THAT WOODEN SWORD IS MJOLNIR, HUH?
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A SIMPLE AND DIRECT KINDA GUY.
PWA HA HA HA HAU
A COLD? NO WAY.
HE DOESN'T GET COLDS.
BUT MAN, GOING TO SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING... HE SURE IS GETTING USED TO THINGS HERE, THAT NARUKAMI-KUN....
HE WASN'T THERE TODAY, THOUGH. I WONDER IF HE'S GOT A COLD...!?


UHUHU.... THE MYSTERIES OF A HIGH SCHOOL BOY WHO LIVES ALONE~~~♥
WHAAAAA...! YOU'RE GOING TO NARUGAMI-SAN'S HOUSE? LOKI-SAMA.....
!
NOW I'M CURIOUS... LET'S GO ANNOY HIM FOR FUN...
HEH HEH HEH

WHERE'D YOU GUYS MEET EACH OTHER, ANYWAY?

OH AND BESIDES, IT'S PRETTY STRANGE THAT YOU AND NARUGAMI-KUN ARE FRIENDS, LOKI-KUN...

AHEM
YOU WANT TO KNOW IF NARUKAMI-KUN HAS FIGURED OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE, DON'T YOU?
AHHH... WELL, YES... BUT...

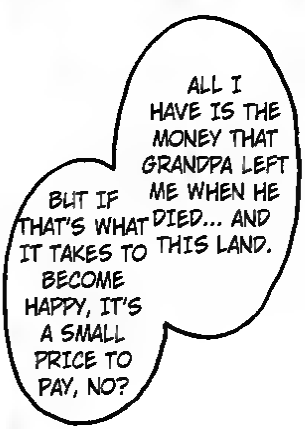
....WE'VE BEEN SORT OF STUCK TOGETHER FOR SUCH A LONG TIME THAT I'VE JUST FORGOTTEN HOW WE MET!

AHH, THERE'S SOME BROWN RICE IN THAT CARDBOARD BOX THERE.
I BET YOU'RE STARVIN', RIGHT GRANNY?
WHAT SHOULD I MAKE FOR YA?
ごっちゃり
JUMBLED
LINED UP
THERE'S NOTHING BUT URNS IN HERE.....
HMM BROWN RICE PORRIDGE.. I NEED A POT, RIGHT?
OPEN
FULL UP
HWAAAA AAHHHH!?
OH WELL... I GUESS I'LL MAKE IT IN AN URN THEN....
HUH?
SLIP

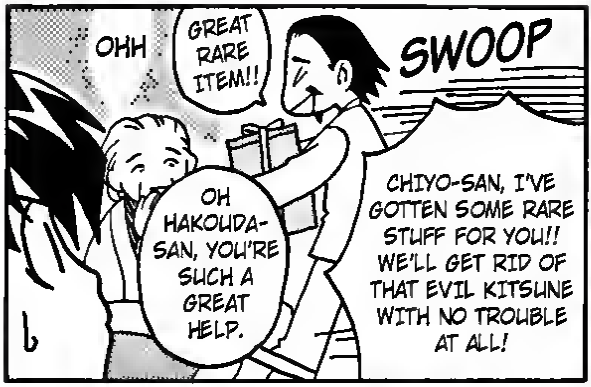
DUN DAH DAH!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS ALL OF THIS!?
GRANNY !!

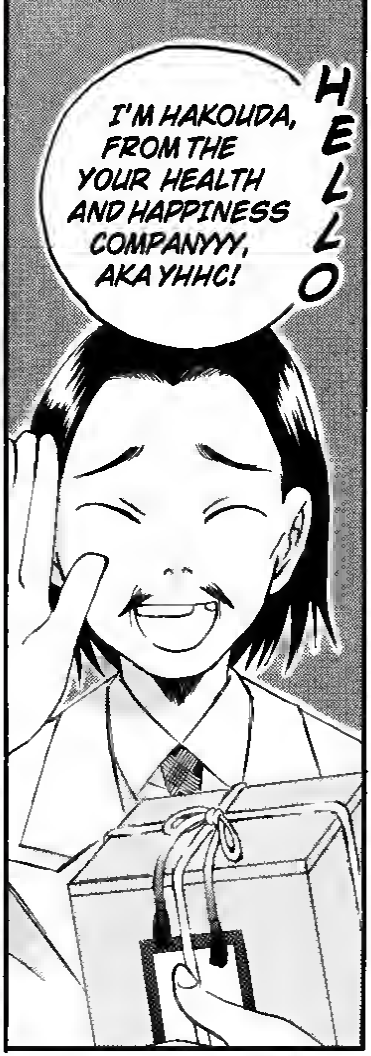
I'VE BEEN POSESSED BY AN EVIL KITSUNE, SO I'VE GOTTEN MORE AND MORE SICK.
THOSE ARE THE PRODUCTS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO HELP...
THEY'RE ALL PRODUCTS FROM "YOUR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS COMPANY." THEY'RE MIRACULOUS PRODUCTS.

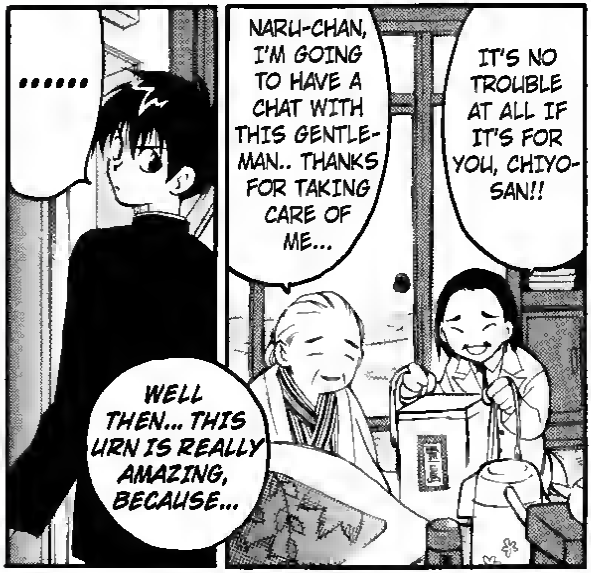
WELL, THAT'S..
'SCUSE MEEEE!!


ALL I HAVE IS THE MONEY THAT GRANDPA LEFT ME WHEN HE DIED... AND THIS LAND.
BUT IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME HAPPY, IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY, NO?

YEAH, BUT... I MEAN, WHERE'D YOU GET THE MONEY TO BUY ALL THIS STUFF?


OHH
GREAT RARE ITEM!!
OH HAKOUDA-SAN, YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT HELP.
SWOOP
CHIYO-SAN, I'VE GOTTEN SOME RARE STUFF FOR YOU!! WE'LL GET RID OF THAT EVIL KITSUNE WITH NO TROUBLE AT ALL!


HELLO
I'M HAKOUDA, FROM THE YOUR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS COMPANYYY, AKA YHHC!

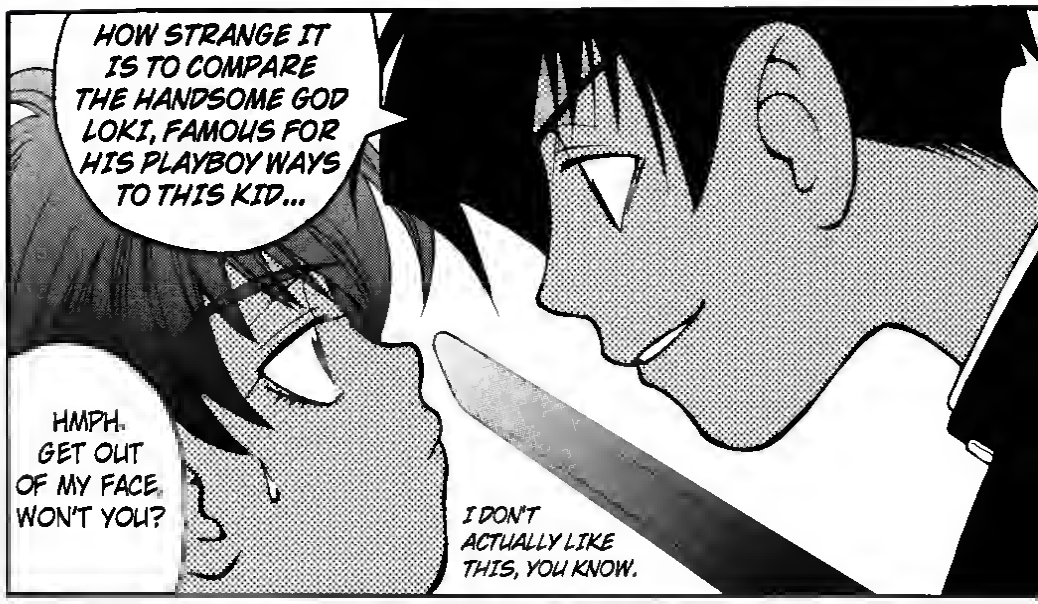

.....
WELL THEN... THIS URN IS REALLY AMAZING, BECAUSE...
NARU-CHAN, I'M GOING TO HAVE A CHAT WITH THIS GENTLE-MAN.. THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF ME...
IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL IF IT'S FOR YOU, CHIYO-SAN!!

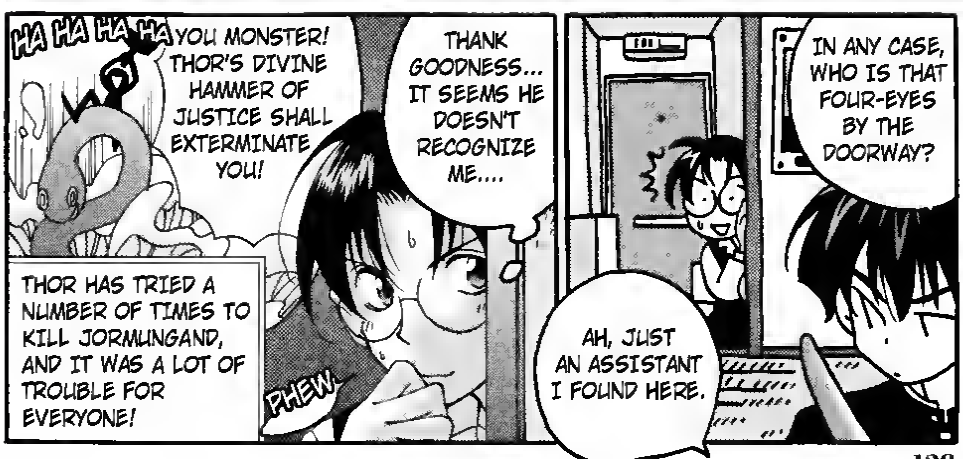
ISN'T THAT...
...WHAT YOU'D CALL "A HEALTH SCAM"!?

IT'S MASUMI-CHAN!
WHAAT? ARE YOU GUYS PLAYING WEIRD GAMES AGAIN?
WE'RE GOING TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE! ARE YOU OFF-DUTY TODAY?
ARE WE REALLY GOING THERE, LOKI-SAMA...?
HMMM, THIS IS RIGHT AROUND NIIYAMA-SAN'S...
THIS IS NARU-KAMI'S PLACE.
WAAAA, BUT THE SECRETS OF A HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S ROOM!!
LIKE I'D WANT TO EAT FOOD COOKED BY A DUDE!
DRAG
DRAG
AH, IT IS AN INESCAPABLE DESTINY...
IN THAT CASE, I SHALL COOK FOR YOU!! THEN LOKI-SAMA AND MAYURA-SAN CAN GO SEE NARU-
GLINT
WHA... BUUT...
I'M SICK OF 7-11 BOXED LUNCH!!
THIS IS GREAT. I'M STARVIN' SO I WAS GONNA GO TO THE CONVEN-IENCE STORE, BUT MAKE ME SOMETHIN.
GRAB

LOOK WHO'S HERE...
AND IS THAT THOR'S LEGENDARY HAMMER, MJOLNIR?
CUT IT OUT.
THIS ISN'T SO BAD FOR A GOD PLAYING HOUSE.
WHY'D YOU COME HERE, LOKI?
HAVE YOU COME TO MOCK ME?
WELL WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? I JUST SUDDENLY ENDED UP DOWN HERE WITH NO CHANCE FOR PREPARATION...
OH YES, I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT...

IN THE FORM OF A CHILD...
GO AHEAD AND SAY THAT WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE...
GRR
I GUESS YOU CALL THAT A SPAZ?
I BET YOU SPACED OUT WHILE WALKING AROUND AND FELL. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO CARE-LESS!!


HOW STRANGE IT IS TO COMPARE THE HANDSOME GOD LOKI, FAMOUS FOR HIS PLAYBOY WAYS TO THIS KID...
HMPH. GET OUT OF MY FACE, WON'T YOU?
I DON'T ACTUALLY LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW.


HA HA HA HA
YOU MONSTER! THOR'S DIVINE HAMMER OF JUSTICE SHALL EXTERMINATE YOU!
THOR HAS TRIED A NUMBER OF TIMES TO KILL JORMUNGAND, AND IT WAS A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE!
PHEW
THANK GOODNESS... IT SEEMS HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME....
AH, JUST AN ASSISTANT I FOUND HERE.
IN ANY CASE, WHO IS THAT FOUR-EYES BY THE DOORWAY?

WHAT? IF YOU'RE OFFERING A CASE AND IT'S BORING, I WON'T TAKE IT.
I WANT THIS...
OH LOKI, YOU'RE DOING THAT DETECTIVE THING NOW, AREN'T YOU...?

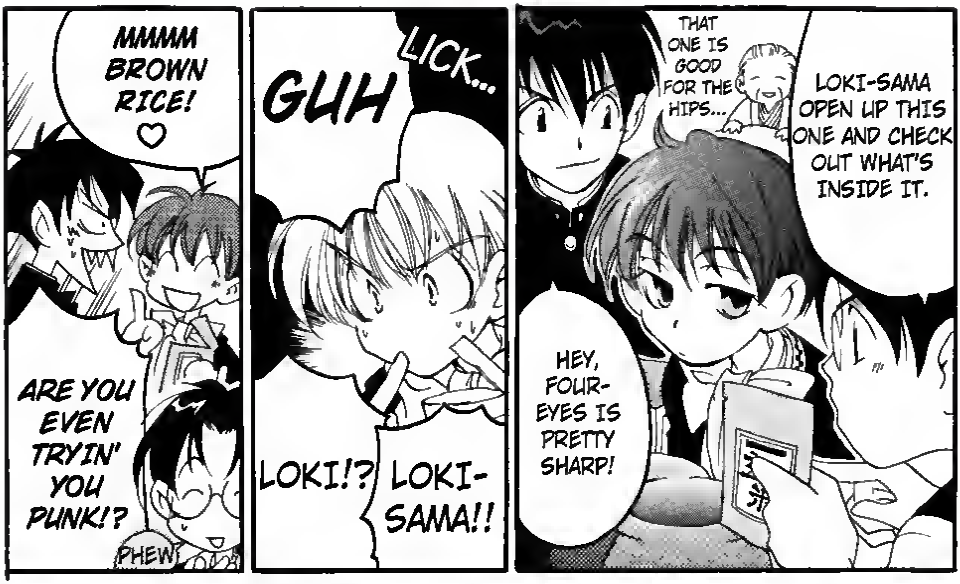
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT GETTING PEOPLE TO LIKE HIM...
OH MY GOODNESS, WHAT A CUTE LITTLE GUEST YOU ARE.

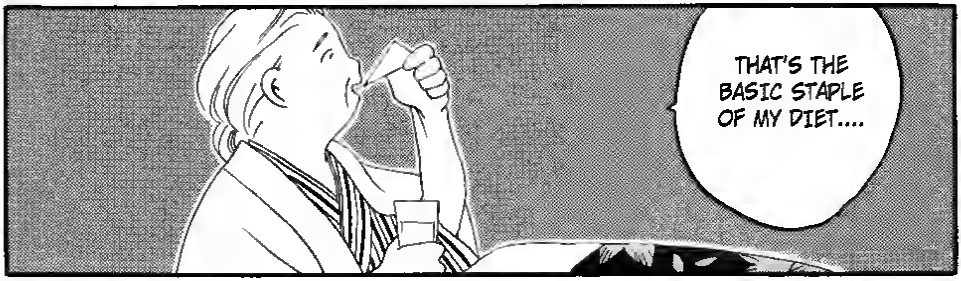
GRANNY! I HEARD YOU GOT LOTSA NEAT URNS!
LEMME SEE LEMME SEEEEE!!

NEATO! I WANT SOME TOO!!
AH, THAT ONE IS GOOD FOR YOUR JOINTS.
I'M DONE!!

SO THIS STUFF'S SPOSTA GET RID OF THE KITSUNE THAT'S HAUNTING YOU...?

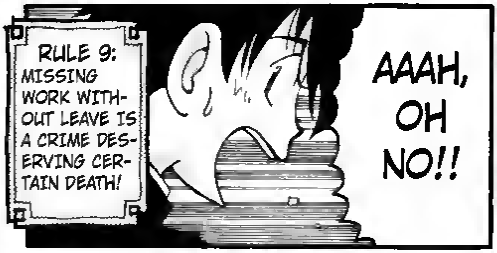
LINED UP
OOOH!


MMMM BROWN RICE!
ARE YOU EVEN TRYIN' YOU PUNK!?
PHEW
GUH
LICK...
LOKI!?
LOKI-SAMA!!
THAT ONE IS GOOD FOR THE HIPS...
LOKI-SAMA OPEN UP THIS ONE AND CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE IT.
HEY, FOUR-EYES IS PRETTY SHARP!

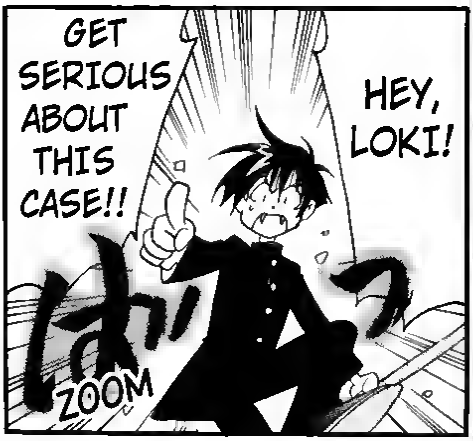

THAT'S THE BASIC STAPLE OF MY DIET....

WELL WHADDAYA THINK, LOKI? IT SEEMS KIND OF FISHY, DOESN'T IT?
HMM~~~~?

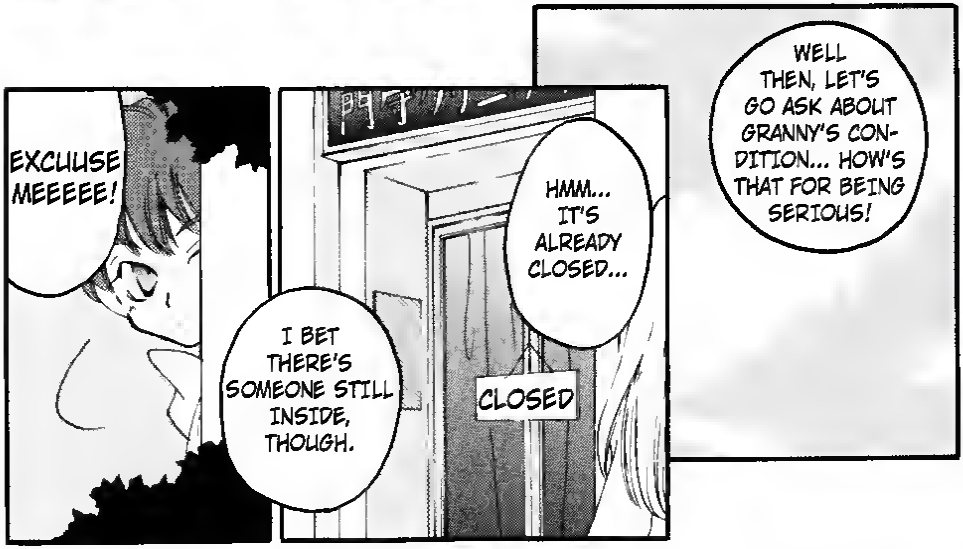
MMHMM I THINK YOU ARE RIGHT ON TARGET..
THE STENCH OF A MYSTICAL BEAST IS STRONG...

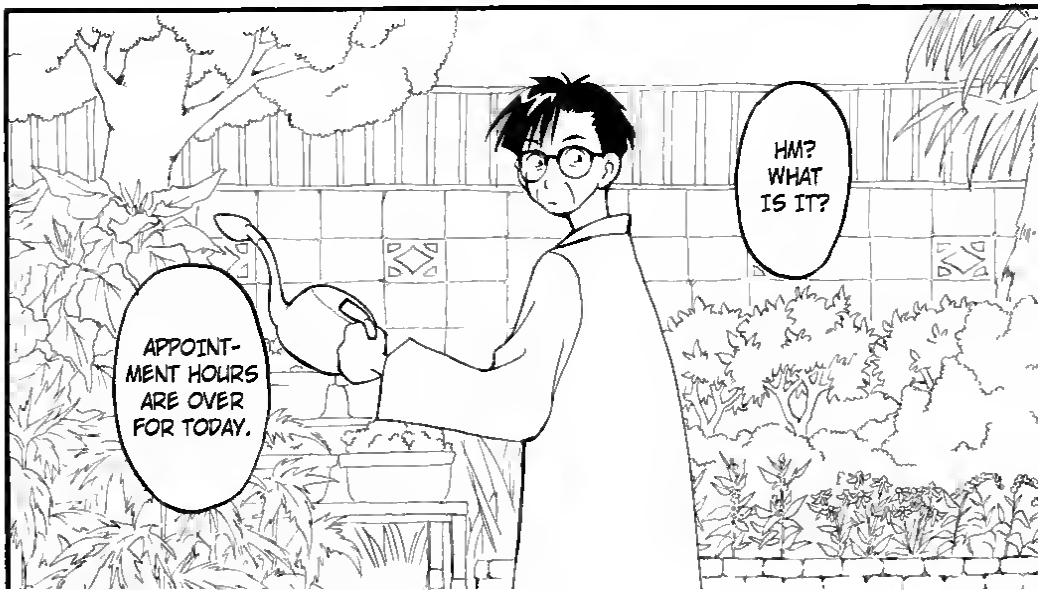

RULE 9: MISSING WORK WITHOUT LEAVE IS A CRIME DESERVING CERTAIN DEATH!
AAAH, OH NO!!

OH, NARUGAMI YOU SEEM WELL! ARE YOU SKIPPING WORK, TOO?
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
WH- DON'T JUST SAY THAT....


GET SERIOUS ABOUT THIS CASE!!
HEY, LOKI!
ZOOM

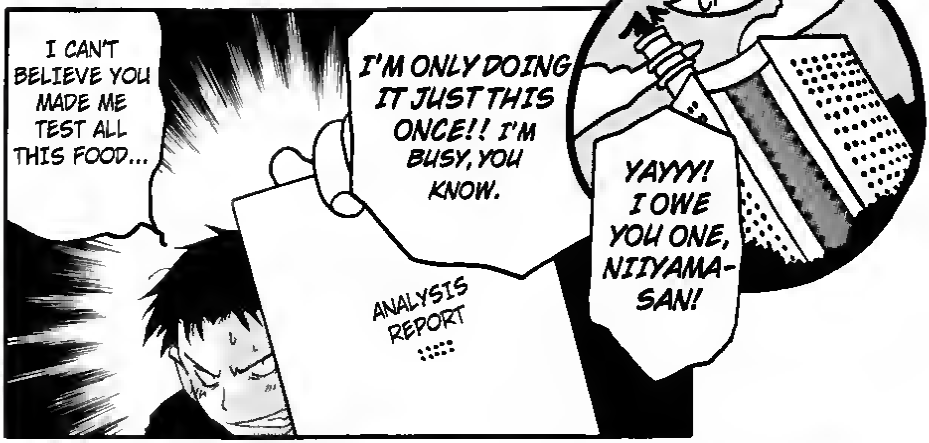
AHHH? A SCAM CASE? I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO PREY AGAINST HELPLESS OLD LADIES!!
YOU SEE, MAYURA...
STILL AS FOOLHARDY AND RECKLESS AS EVER...


EXCUUSE MEEEEE!
I BET THERE'S SOMEONE STILL INSIDE, THOUGH.
HMM... IT'S ALREADY CLOSED...
CLOSED
WELL THEN, LET'S GO ASK ABOUT GRANNY'S CONDITION... HOW'S THAT FOR BEING SERIOUS!

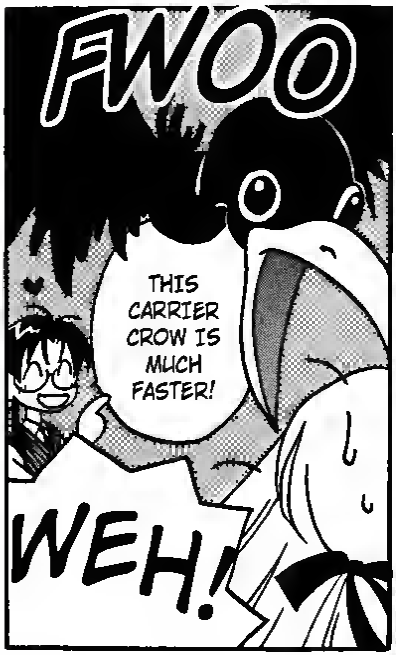

APPOINTMENT HOURS ARE OVER FOR TODAY.
HM? WHAT IS IT?

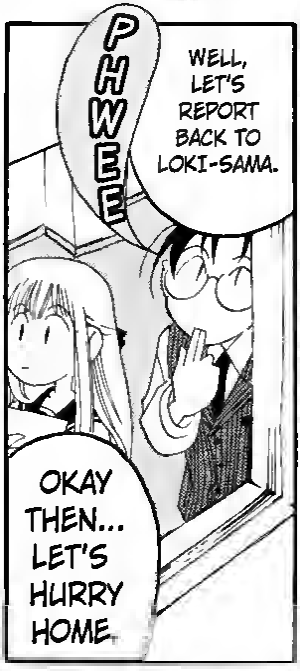
OH, ARE YOU FRIENDS OF CHIYO-SAN'S? WAIT JUST A MOMENT.
UMMM MR. DOCTOR, YOU GAVE GRANNY CHIYO SOME MEDICINE, RIGHT?
HRMMM... WELL, HER CONDITION IS POOR.
COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT GRANNY'S CONDITION?
THANK YOUU!
HERE'S SOME MORE OF THE MEDICINE I'VE MIXED.
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A LOT OF STRANGE PLANTS...
AFTER HER HUSBAND PASSED AWAY, HER HEALTH SUDDENLY TOOK A DIVE.
WOOOWW.. AND YOU GROW THEM YOURSELF?
I USE THEM FOR HERBAL MEDICINE.
AH YES, THEY'RE VERY RARE.

IF SHE'S ONLY SUDDENLY GOTTEN TO BE SICK, THAT'S PRETTY WEIRD.
SO IT REALLY IS THE FAULT OF THOSE STRANGE "YHHC" PRODUCTS!!
RIGHT, LOKI-SAMA!
FLMP
SO, LET'S HAVE THE POLICE CHECK THEM OUT.
W... WHEN'D YOU GET ALL THAT...
CHOMP
CHOMP
YOU MEAN THIS?
CHRMP
CHOMP
THERE MIGHT BE POISON IN THERE OR SOMETHING!
NNOOO! LOKI-SAMAA!!
LET'S COMPLETELY ANALYZE THIS STUFF!
EVERY-THING THAT GRANNY EATS!
HAPPYLIFE
玄米


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME TEST ALL THIS FOOD...
I'M ONLY DOING IT JUST THIS ONCE!! I'M BUSY, YOU KNOW.
ANALYSIS REPORT
CAWW
YAYYY! I OWE YOU ONE, NIIYAMA-SAN!

NOPE. THEY WERE ALL PRETTY NORMAL PROCESSED FOODS. NOTHIN' WEIRD AT ALL.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT...
THERE WAS SOMETHING BAD IN THERE, WASN'T THERE? WASN'T THERE??


FWOO
THIS CARRIER CROW IS MUCH FASTER!
WEH!


PHWEE
WELL, LET'S REPORT BACK TO LOKI-SAMA.
OKAY THEN... LET'S HURRY HOME.

WHA... NO WAY!!!

HMPH...
I THOUGHT IT WAS THAT PARTICULAR ODOR...

KACHUK
WHO'S HERE AT THIS HOUR....
LOKI !?

SHAKE
.....
SHAKE
GRANNY'S HAVING ANOTHER FIT! DO SOME-THING!!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED CHIYO-SAN!?
OH NOOO, THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE WORK OF THAT EVIL KITSUNE...
CHIYO-SAAAN I'VE GOT SOME MORE...
PANT
PANT
PANT
COLLAR!! THIS CHEAP PRODUCT WILL TAKE CONTROL OF IT!
TO GET RID OF THAT KITSUNE, I BROUGHT THIS MIRACULOUS, BRAND-NEW...
THAT'S ENOUGH YOU DAMN SWINDLER!

A KIT-SUNE ...
JUST STOP RANDOMLY SHOWING UP! JEEZ, A KITSUNE, INDEED!!
STOP RANDOMLY APPEARING AND SAYING DUMB STUFF TO TRY TO EXPLOIT GRANNY!!
YOU SAW IT AS A KIT-SUNE, EH?
THAT'S A SHAME..
PALE
IT'S PRETTY CRUMMY TO BE SELLING THOSE AT SUCH A HIGH PRICE....
YOUR MIRACULOUS NEW FOOD PRODUCTS ARE ALL REGULAR BOIL-IN-THE-BAG PRODUCTS!
THIS IS THE ANALYSIS OF GRANNY'S FOOD AND DRINK...
LOKI !?

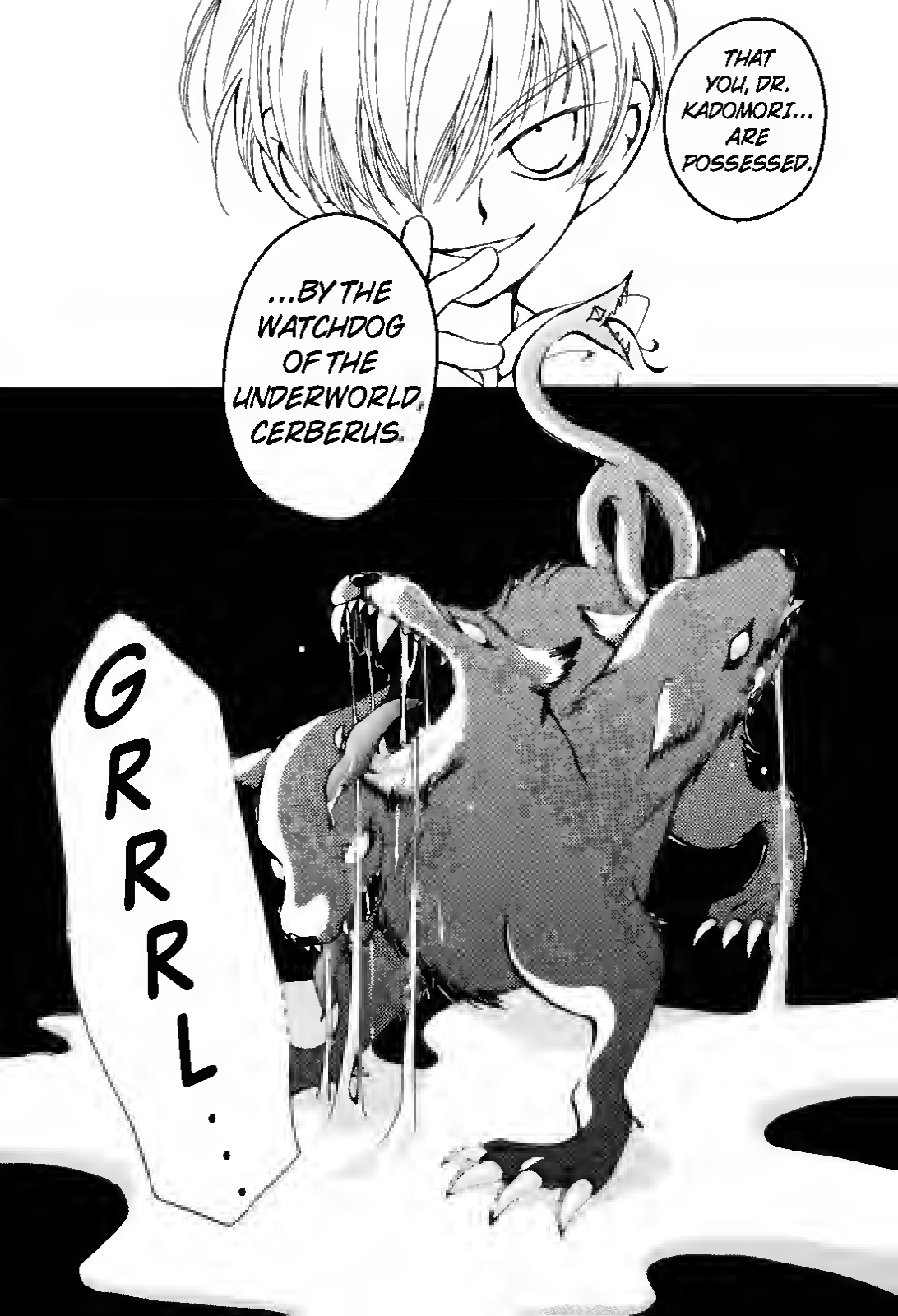
LATER!
AH- HEY WAIT JUST A SEC !
CLICK
THE REAL PROBLEM IS!
SOMETHING IN THE HERBAL MEDICINE THAT DR. KADOMORI DISPENSED...

IT'S THE WOLFSBANE I SAW IN THE DOCTOR'S GARDEN.
WOLFSBANE!? ISN'T THAT A WELL-KNOWN POISON!?

OH, NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN... WOLFSBANE IS INDEED A WELL-KNOWN POISON, BUT...
IT'S ALSO A VERY USEFUL COMPONENT OF HERBAL MEDICINE.
THAT IS INDEED TRUE. HOWEVER...

LOOK OVER AT THAT OLD WOMAN IN PAIN.
SHE IS CLEARLY EXHIBIT-ING SYMPTOMS OF ALKALOID POISONING. AND ISN'T THAT THE TYPE OF POISON THAT MONKSHOOD CONTAINS?
WHAT!?
HEY! IS THAT TRUE, DOCTOR KADOMORI?
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY TRY TO CLAIM THAT IT'S A CORRECT PRESCRIP-TION.
KNOWINGLY TELLING HER TO CONTINUE TO TAKE THAT MEDICINE... THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED...

FIRST DEGREE MURDER, COULDN'T IT?
IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, WOLFSBANE WAS SAID TO BE...
...PRODUCED BY THE SALIVA OF WILD BEASTS.
IN THE TALES, CONSPIRING TO KILL SOMEONE WITH THE USE OF WOLFSBANE MEANT....


THAT YOU, DR. KADOMORI... ARE POSSESSED.
...BY THE WATCHDOG OF THE UNDERWORLD, CERBERUS.
GRRRL...

YOU CAN SEE IT, CAN'T YOU NARU-KAMI-KUN?
HEY... WHAT THE HECK...
BAM
IF SO, THEN LEND ME A HAND!!
YOU DAMN DOG!! HOW DARE YOU HURT GRANNY!!

I, THE PROTECTOR OF JUSTICE, WILL NOT LET IT STAND!!
SNAP

GRRUH
GLARE
WHEN YOU HAVE AN OWNER, DOG..
YOU HAVE TO OBEY THEM, DON'T YOU?
POP!

OH HEY!

I JUST GOT A GREAT IDEA!

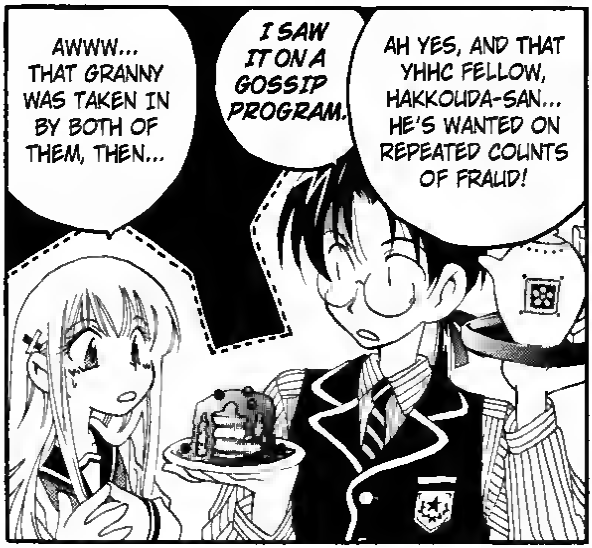
WHO'S COMING ALONG WITH THE OLD LADY?

I AM.

'COS SHE AIN'T GOT ANY OTHER FAMILY.

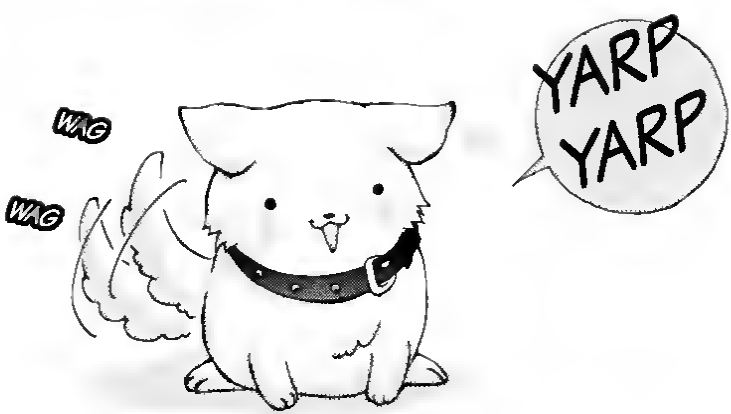
.....

I HEARD HE WAS DOING THE SAME THING TO SOME OTHER PATIENTS!
THAT DOCTOR GOT ARRESTED!
THEY SAID HIS CLINIC IS IN A LOT OF DEBT...
HE WAS KIND TO OLD PEOPLE WHO WERE ALL ALONE AND HAD THEM INCLUDE HIM IN THEIR WILLS.

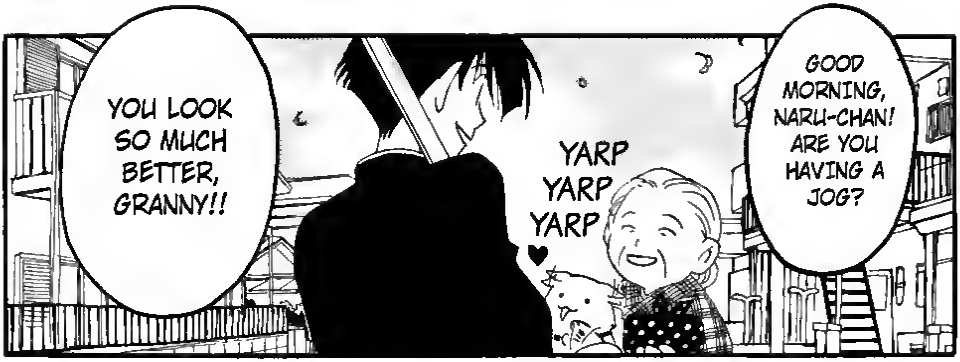

AWWW... THAT GRANNY WAS TAKEN IN BY BOTH OF THEM, THEN...
I SAW IT ON A GOSSIP PROGRAM.
AH YES, AND THAT YHHC FELLOW, HAKKOUDA-SAN... HE'S WANTED ON REPEATED COUNTS OF FRAUD!

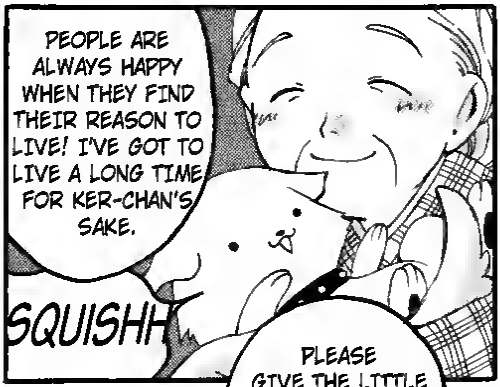
AT LEAST FOR HER, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ANYMORE!
?
I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT HER...
IT'S QUITE EASY TO SET YOUR SIGHTS ON OLDER PEOPLE WHO HOLD LAND..

SHE'S GOT CERBERUS, THE LOYAL DOG OF HADES, THE LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD, TO PROTECT HER NOW.



YEAH... WE'VE BEEN KINDA STUCK TOGETHER FOR A GOOD LONG TIME!


YOU LOOK SO MUCH BETTER, GRANNY!!
YARP YARP YARP
GOOD MORNING, NARU-CHAN! ARE YOU HAVING A JOG?


PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY WHEN THEY FIND THEIR REASON TO LIVE! I'VE GOT TO LIVE A LONG TIME FOR KER-CHAN'S SAKE.
SQUISHH

PLEASE GIVE THE LITTLE BOY WHO LET ME HAVE KER-CHAN MY THANKS.
HE'S YOUR GOOD FRIEND, ISN'T HE, NARU-CHAN?
.....

WELL THEN! I'M GONNA HAVE A GREAT TIME TOO! DOING MY MORNING TRAINING!!
FWOOSH
AUGH!! IT'S EVEN LOUDER NOW!!
INAKI
WAAAHH
HYA
HYA
DEHH
TOHH
PUNYA
HOPE YOU TOO HAVE A HARD-BOILED MORNING!
MILK

YEEEK
BANG!
BANG!

NIGHT 9
GAME CENTER LOKI!!

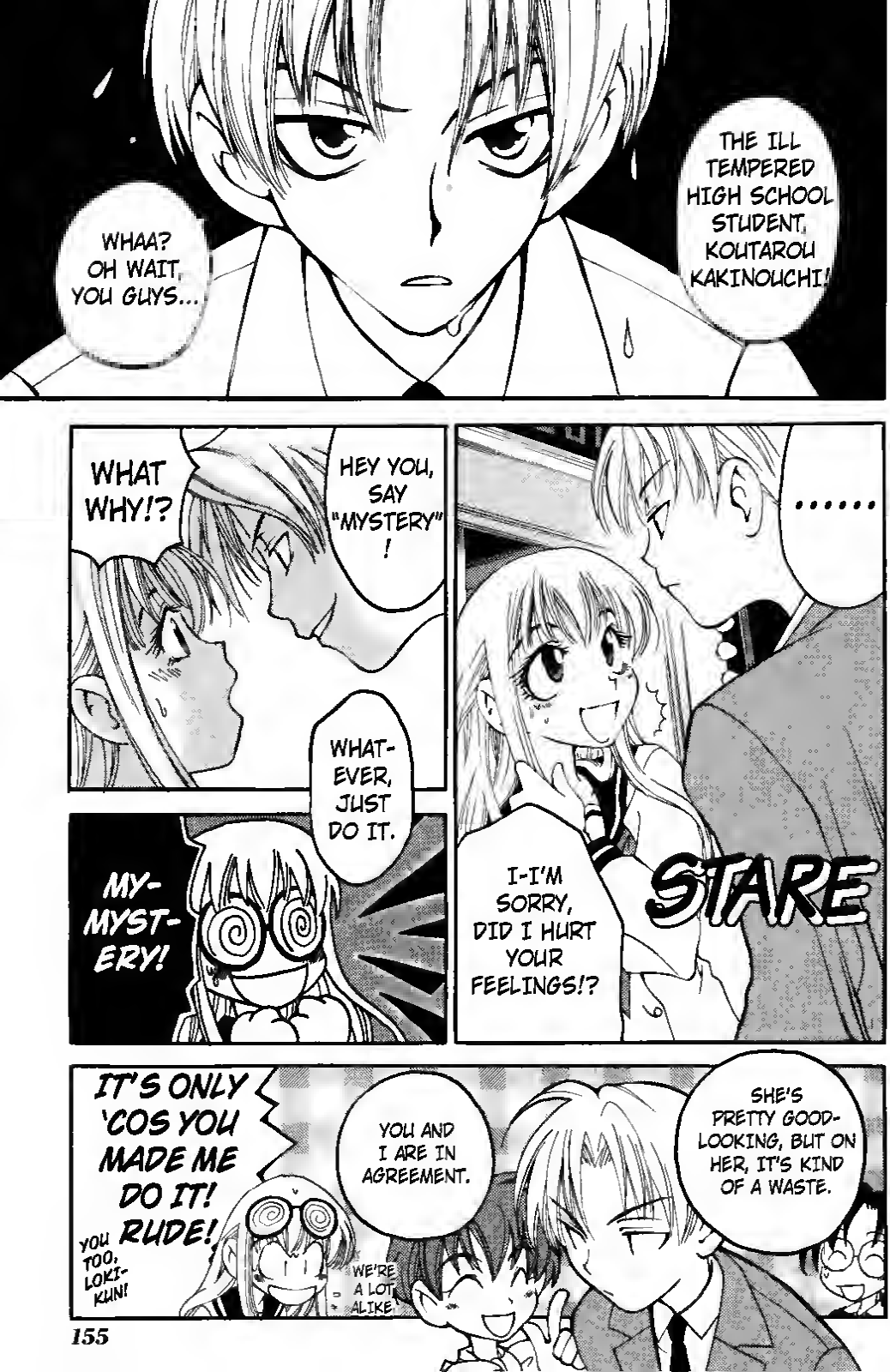
GREAT AS ALWAYS, LOKI-SAMA!!
WOW... THAT WAS EXCITING.
HMPH!

HUNH.
IS THAT SO?
PFF, MAYURA, DON'T BE STUPID. ZOMBIES ARE DEAD!
YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM WITHOUT THE BLESSING OF A GOD.

IF THIS TOWN WAS INVADED BY ZOMBIES SOMEHOW...
I'D BE SAFE AS LONG AS LOKI-KUN HAD A GUN!

AS THERE IS NO WINDOW HERE, I DIDN'T REALIZE. IT SOUNDS QUITE CLOSE BY...
OH MY, THERE SEEMS TO BE THUNDER OUTSIDE.
RUMBLE

HEY, IT'S KOUTAROU!
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH! WE'RE IN A GAME CENTER IN AN INDOOR THEME PARK! LET'S JUST HAVE FUN!
I GUESS WE WON'T BE GOING HOME ANYTIME SOON...
MY DINNER PLANS.
DAMN... I'M SOAKING WET!
YOU HAVE A TOWEL?
OH! IF I REMEMBER RIGHT...
YOU'RE THAT GUY FROM...

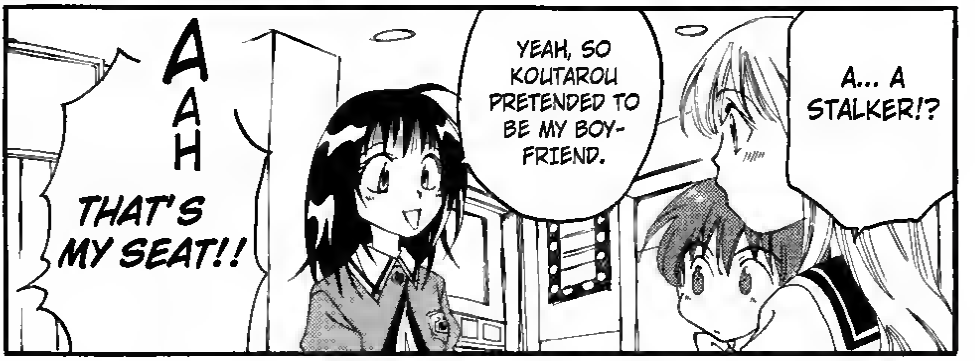

THE ILL TEMPERED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, KOUTAROU KAKINOUCHI!
WHAA? OH WAIT, YOU GUYS...
.....
STARE
I-I'M SORRY, DID I HURT YOUR FEELINGS!?
HEY YOU, SAY "MYSTERY"!
WHAT WHY!?
WHATEVER, JUST DO IT.
MY-MYSTERY!
SHE'S PRETTY GOOD-LOOKING, BUT ON HER, IT'S KIND OF A WASTE.
YOU AND I ARE IN AGREEMENT.
WE'RE A LOT ALIKE
IT'S ONLY 'COS YOU MADE ME DO IT! RUDE!
YOU TOO, LOKI-KUN!

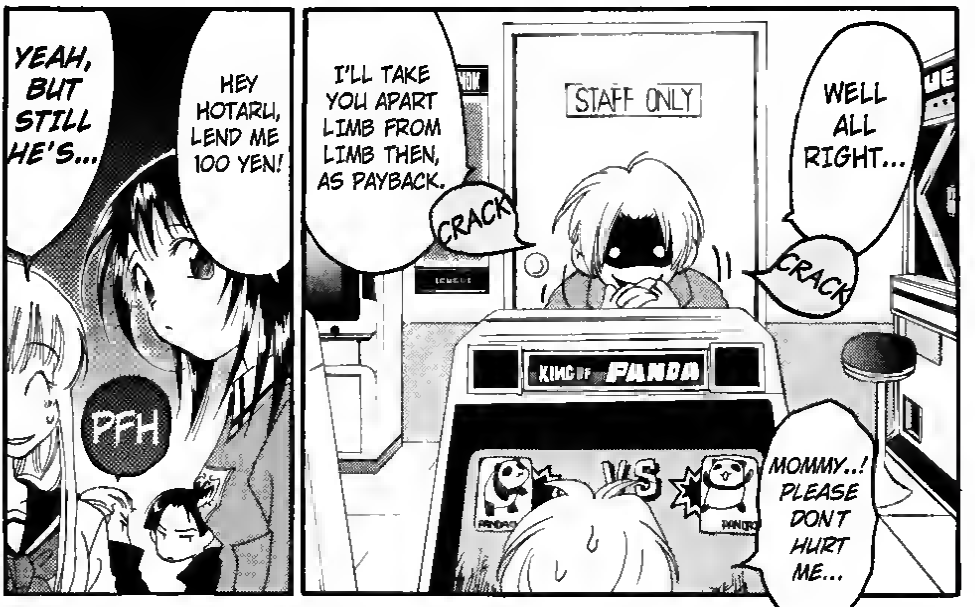
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT.
I'M HOTARU. NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU!
YOU'RE THAT DETECTIVE KOUTAROU KEEPS TALKING ABOUT, AREN'T YOU?
AHAH?
.....
THERE'S A VAMPIRE'S MANSION ATTRACTION ON THE OTHER FLOOR, YOU SEE.
WAH!
DRACULA!?
OOH, HOTARU-CHAN'S HERE TOO?
COME BACK TO US....!
WE'RE SUUUPER SAD YOU QUIT YOUR PART-TIME JOB HERE, HOTARU-CHAN...
REALLY? THAT SOUNDS NEAT!

HEY, BY THE WAY, YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE ON SUNDAY?
YEAH, YEAH, WE'LL TREAT YOU, TOO!
YOU GUYS ARE MORONS.
WHY WOULD SHE WANT TO GO ANYWHERE WITH LOSER COLLEGE GUYS LIKE YOU?
GET BACK TO WORK.
ANYWAY, LET'S GO PLAY OUR USUAL GAME.
WH...
YOU SHOULD TALK, YOU PLAYBOY! LIKE WE'D LISTEN TO YOU!
HEY! WAIT JUST A MINUTE!!
JUST 'COS YOUR DAD'S THE MANAGER OF THIS PLACE DOESN'T MEAN WE'LL LET YOU GET A BIG HEAD ABOUT IT!!
YANK

HEY LOOK HERE, YOU TWO, GET BACK TO WORK!
OH MY GOODNESS, LOOK WHO IT IS! WELCOME, KOUTAROU!
THAT'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH YOU, SO GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
EVEN THE MANAGER IS ALL OVER HIM.
JEEZ, WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
HEH HEH, YEAH, IT ALSO SHINES IN THE DARK.
WHAT A SHINING EXAMPLE OF YOUR TASTE!
YOU HAVE A NEW WATCH!
YEAH, BUT HE HAS HIS GOOD POINTS, TOO!
MAN, THE WORD ARROGANT FITS KOUTAROU-KUN TO A TEE, DOESN'T IT?

I'VE... HAD A STALKER HOVERING AROUND ME FOR A BIT...
HE USED TO FOLLOW ME HOME FROM WORK...

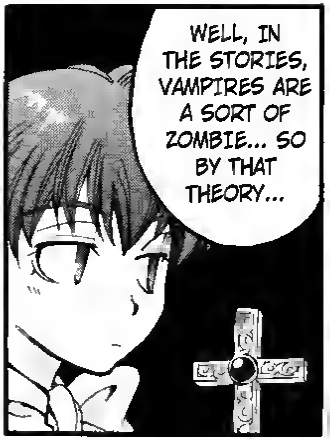

A... A STALKER!?
YEAH, SO KOUTAROU PRETENDED TO BE MY BOY-FRIEND.
AAH THAT'S MY SEAT!!


WELL ALL RIGHT...
STAFF ONLY
I'LL TAKE YOU APART LIMB FROM LIMB THEN, AS PAYBACK.
CRACK
CRACK
KING OF PANDA
VS
MOMMY..! PLEASE DON'T HURT ME...
HEY HOTARU, LEND ME 100 YEN!
YEAH, BUT STILL HE'S...
PFH

HEYYYYY HOTARUU
GO OUT OF HERE AND IT'S ON THE LEFT.
HOTARU-CHAN, WHERE'S THAT VAMPIRE ATTRACTION YOU MENTIONED...?
MMHMM
ARE YOU REALLY GOING, MAYURA?
YEEE♥ IT LOOKS SCARY! MY HEART'S ALREADY BEATING SUPER FAST!
WHISPER WHISPER
THE VAMPIRE'S MANSION
MYSTERY ATTRACTION

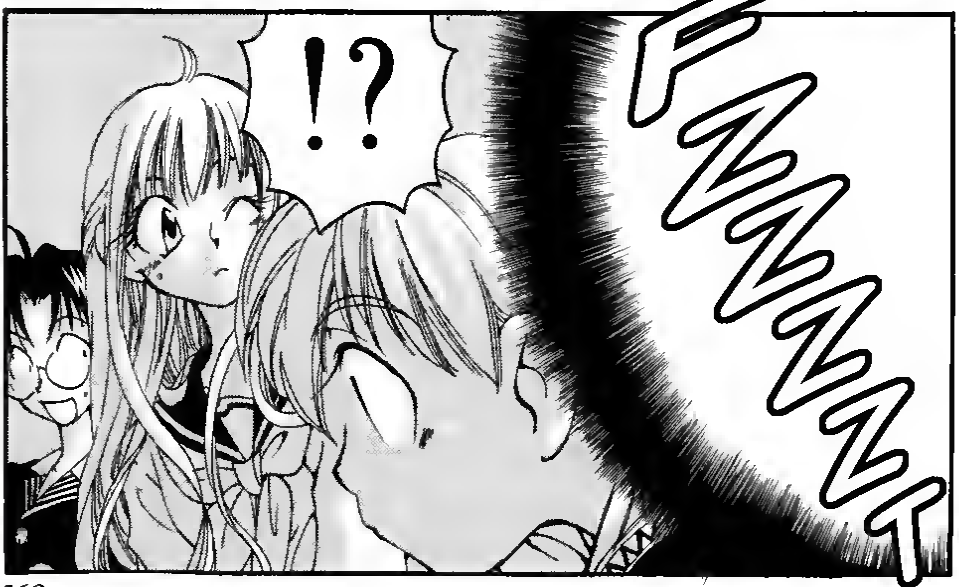
WHISPER
WHISPER
ISN'T HE A JERKOFF? KOUTAROU ACTS LIKE HE'S SO POPULAR, LIKE THE WHOLE TOWN KNOWS HIS NAME..
WHISPER
YEAH. BUT IF YOU DON'T KNOW A GUY LIKE THAT REALLY WELL AND YOU MESS WITH HIM. IT'S AWFUL. YOU CAN'T LAY A HAND ON HIM!
GRARRRH
WELL, HERE WE GO!!
OH, RIGHT RIGHT, SORRY.
.....
YEEE
I'M A CUST-OMER
SORRY IF YOU'RE BUSY, BUT....
FEELS KIND OF HOMEY
YOU SCARED YET, YAMINO-KUN?
OH NOOO, THERE'S SO MANY VAMPIRES!! I THOUGHT IT'D JUST BE COUNT DRACULA...!
IN VAMPIRE LEGENDS, THERE ARE ALWAYS A LOT OF THEM, MAYURA.

THE VAMPIRE LEGEND COMES FROM THE FACT THAT TRULY TERRIBLE MURDERERS WERE MUCH MORE COMMON IN THE OLD DAYS...
WHAT WE NOW CALL A BLOODTHIRSTY KILLER WAS COMMONPLACE IN EARLIER AGES.
COMMONPLACE?
FOR INSTANCE, THE INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS THE MODEL FOR DRACULA HIMSELF WAS A ROMANIAN DUKE NAMED VLAD. HE BECAME KNOWN FOR IMPALING TWENTY THOUSAND TURKISH SOLDIERS DURING WAR WITH THE OTTOMANS.
LOKI-KUN, YOUR STORY'S SCARIER THAN THE RIDE....
CALM DOWN, KOU-TAROU!
GRIND GRIND
....AND I'D JUST GOTTEN MY SEAT BACK...
....NOW I HAVE TO GO UP AGAINST HIM...?


WELL, IN THE STORIES, VAMPIRES ARE A SORT OF ZOMBIE... SO BY THAT THEORY...

BOO!
BY THE WAY, CAN YOU REALLY REPEL A VAMPIRE WITH A CROSS LIKE THEY SAY?

HE FINALLY GOT 'IM!
WHOA
CLATTER
YOU ASSHOLE! YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP USING THOSE CHEAP MOVES ALL THE TIME!


!?
FUUUUU

CLICK
CLICK
BONK
EEEK! WHERE ARE YOU TRYIN' TO TOUCH!?
HA HA HA HA
UUUGHHH
EHNNNN, IT'S DARRRK!! DADDY!!
BAF!
GWUH
IT'S A POWER OUTAGE!!
LIGHT-NING STRUCK US!!
STOMP
THUD

PLIK!
NOW I'LL NEVER GET MARRIED!
HUNH...? THE POWER OUTAGE IS OVER ALREADY?
PHEW.. I WAS FRIGHT-ENED...
WAAH!
THAT CAME FROM THE GAME CENTER... WHAT'S GOING ON?
HM?
LET'S GO SEE!
AAA!!

!?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IS IT?
HE... HE'S..!!

KOUTAROU DID IT!?
THIS GUY KILLED HIM!!
K-KOUTA-ROU! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
I HAVE TO CALL THE COPS!!
OH NO
OH NO
WHEN THE LIGHTS CAME BACK ON, THE OTHER GUY WAS... BUT I WAS NEXT TO KOUTAROU THE WHOLE TIME!
HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT!!

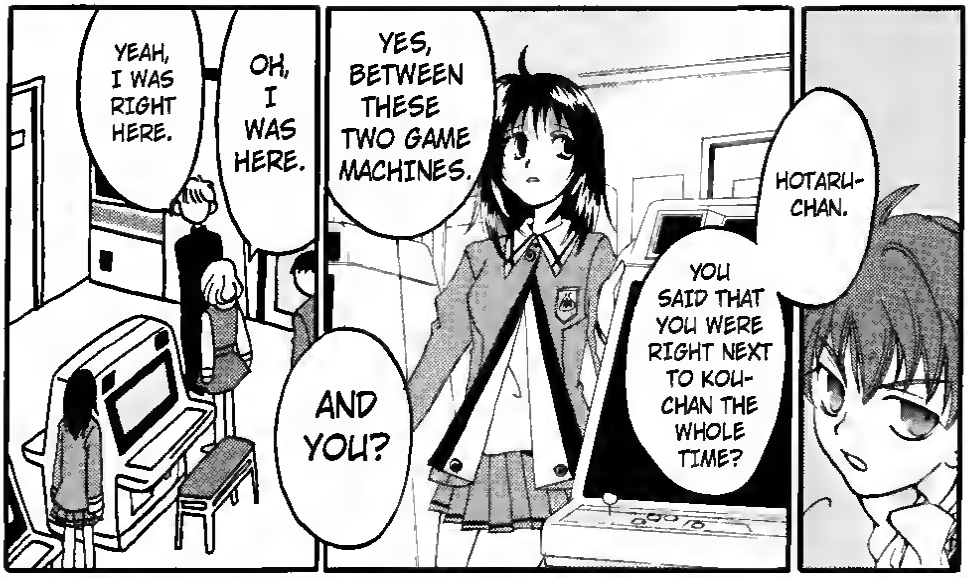
QUIT TRYIN' TO GET OUT OF IT, KOU-TAROU!
WHY WOULD WE ASK THAT KID, ANYHOW?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE!!

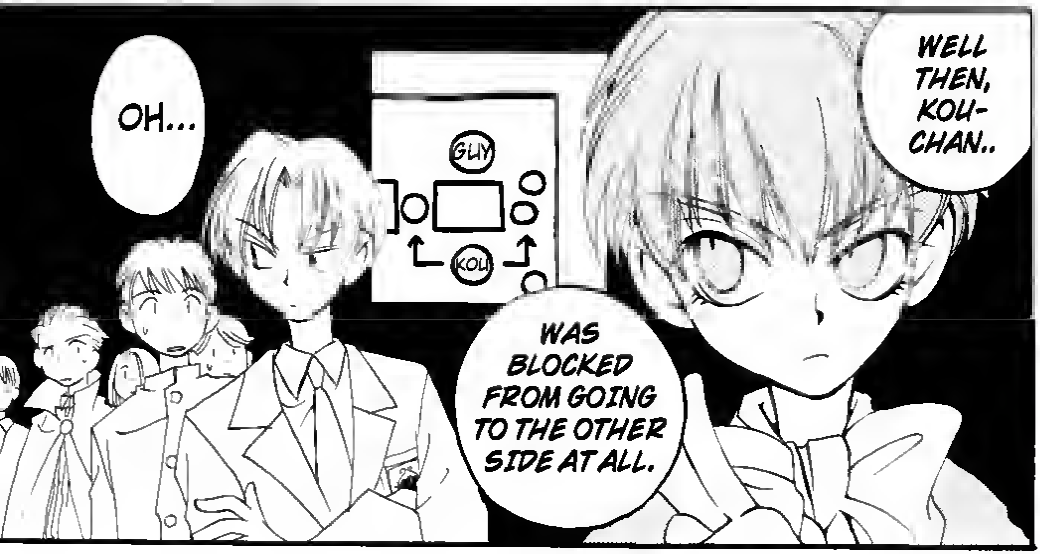
WELL, THIS GUY'S A FAMOUS DETECTIVE, YOU KNOW...
LET'S ASK HIM WHO DID IT.
!

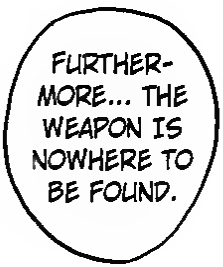
PEOPLE SURE DON'T LIKE YOU, KOU-CHAN.
NOW, DO YOU THINK I'M THE KILLER?

AH HAH! MUCH THE SAME AS MYSELF!
WE REALLY ARE VERY COMPATIBLE!

IT'S 'COS OF MY PERSONAL PRINCIPLES.


YEAH, I WAS RIGHT HERE.
OH, I WAS HERE.
AND YOU?
YES, BETWEEN THESE TWO GAME MACHINES.
YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE RIGHT NEXT TO KOU-CHAN THE WHOLE TIME?
HOTARU-CHAN.

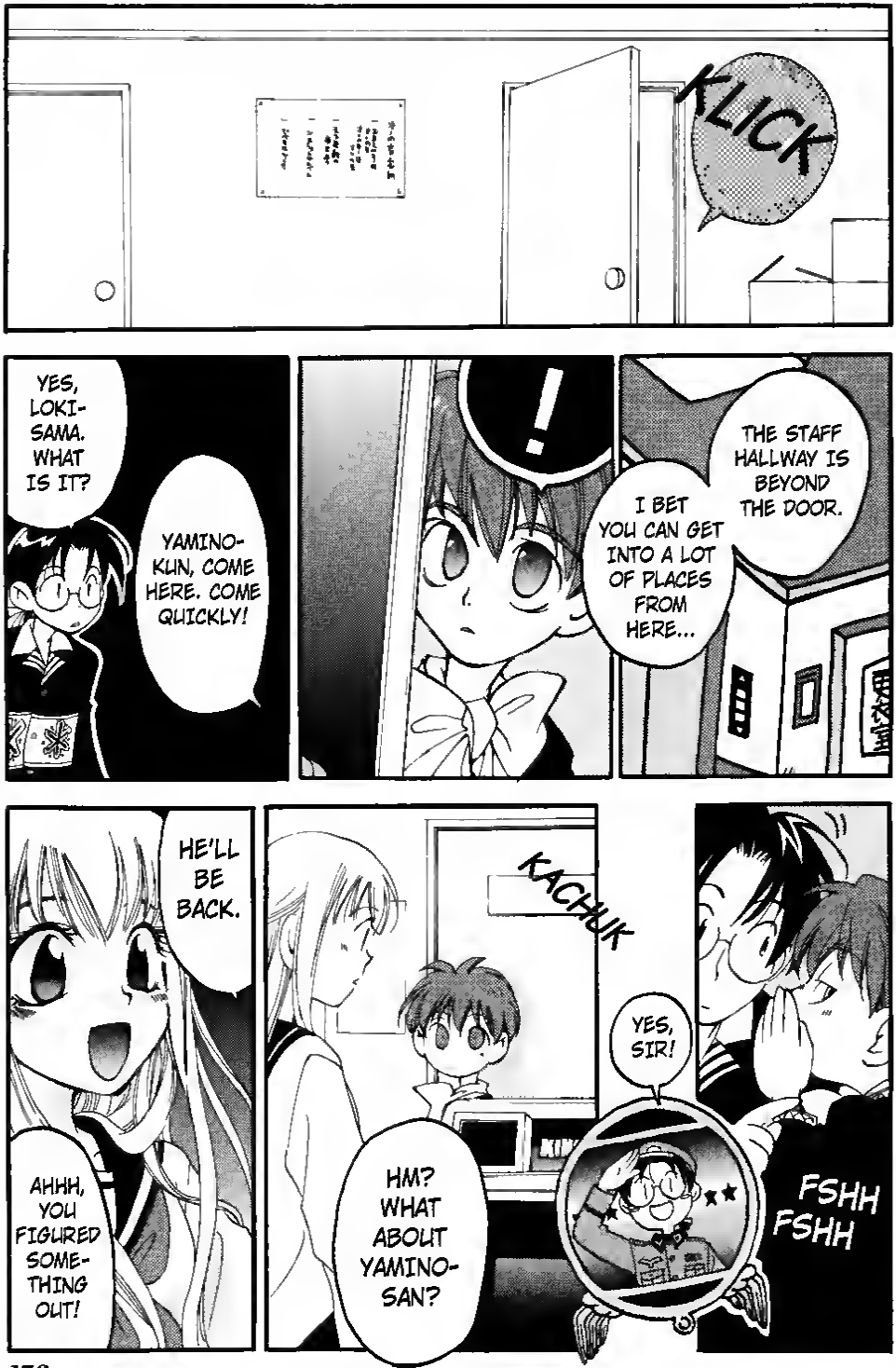

OH...
GUY
KOU
WAS BLOCKED FROM GOING TO THE OTHER SIDE AT ALL.
WELL THEN, KOU-CHAN..


FURTHER-MORE... THE WEAPON IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

WEAPON
THE PART OF THE VICTIM THAT WAS HIT
IF YOU LOOK AT THE BACK OF THE VICTIM'S HEAD, IT SEEMS THAT HE WAS HIT BY SOMETHING QUITE LARGE.
SINCE WE DON'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT AROUND HERE, AND IT WOULD BE MUCH TOO LARGE FOR KOU-CHAN TO PUT IN HIS POCKET...
.....
IT FOLLOWS THAT KOU-CHAN IS LESS AND LESS LIKELY TO HAVE COMMITTED THE CRIME.
MY GOODNESS...
OH, MR. MANAGER... DID YOU MANAGE TO CONTACT THE POLICE?
OH YES, OF COURSE... BUT MANY PEOPLE STILL HAVE NO POWER, SO THEY SEEM TO BE BUSY....
OH, SO THE POWER WENT OUT IN OTHER PLACES TOO....?

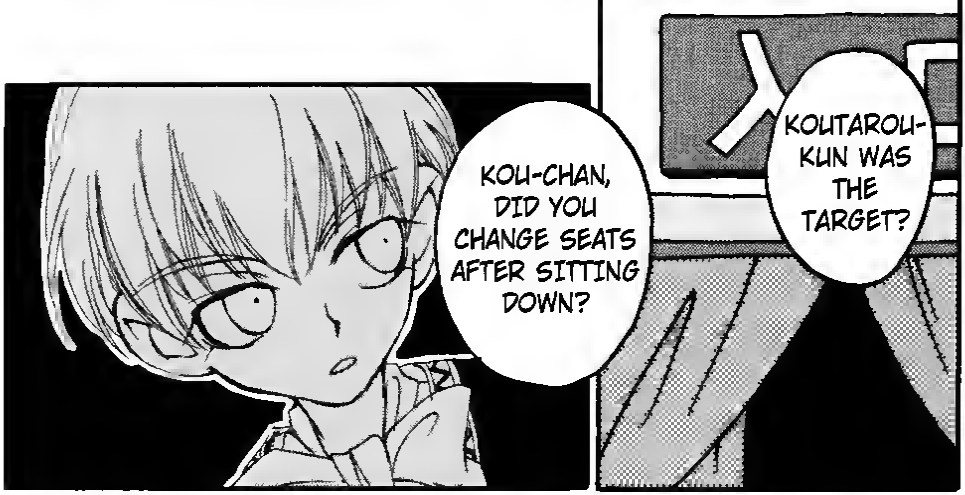
HMM... IN THAT CASE...
HOW'D THE REAL KILLER FIND THE VICTIM IN THE PITCH BLACKNESS IN SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME?
WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY POWER SOURCE HERE. WHEN THE PRIMARY POWER GOES DOWN, IT TAKES 20 TO 30 SECONDS TO SWITCH OVER.
HERE'S THE GUIDE-LINE HE USED, MAYUMA.
THE WATCH THE VICTIM WAS WEARING CAN BE SEEN EVEN IN THE DARK.
LOOK
OH, THE DIAL HAS LUMINOUS PAINT ON IT...

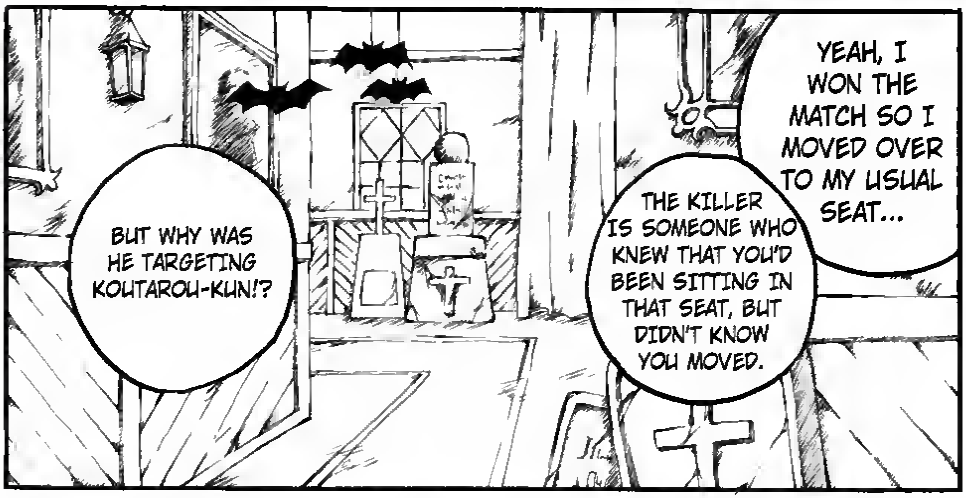
.....
HE'S WEARING THE SAME WATCH AS ME...
HEY... THAT GUY...
IN THAT CASE, THE MURDERER KNEW THAT THE VICTIM WAS WEARING THIS PARTICULAR WATCH.
...IT'D BE HARD TO GET INTO THE GAME CENTER WHILE THE POWER WAS OUT...
IT REALLY IS THE SAME...
STAFF ONLY
IT'D BE BOTH EASY AND CLOSE BY.
BUT IF THE KILLER USED THIS DOOR RIGHT BEHIND THE VICTIM...


KLICK
YES, LOKI-SAMA. WHAT IS IT?
YAMINO-KUN, COME HERE. COME QUICKLY!
!
I BET YOU CAN GET INTO A LOT OF PLACES FROM HERE...
THE STAFF HALLWAY IS BEYOND THE DOOR.
HE'LL BE BACK.
AHHH, YOU FIGURED SOME-THING OUT!
KACHUK
HM? WHAT ABOUT YAMINO-SAN?
YES, SIR!
FSHH FSHH

THE KILLER IS...
A VAMPIRE!
WHAA?
HEY NOW! ARE YOU SAYING WE DID IT!?
THAT'S IMPOSS-IBLE
GAMES
MANSION
WHEN WE CAME HERE, IT TOOK US A LOT MORE THAN THE THIRTY SECONDS THAT IT WAS DARK...
HE'S NOT LIST-EN-ING...
THERE'S A REAL VAMPIRE!
IN THAT VAMPIRE'S MANSION!

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT...
I DUNNO.
WHO'S THE KILLER?
I DUNNO.
WE HAVE TO GO MEET THE VAMPIRE.
HE'S WAITING FOR US WITH THE BLOOD-SOAKED MURDER WEAPON!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING LOKI-KUN?
IT'S LIKELY THAT THE KILLER'S MOTIVE...
WAS ACTUALLY TO KILL KOU-CHAN.
THE VAMPIRE'S MA
MYSTERY ATTRACTION
REALLY ?


KOU-CHAN, DID YOU CHANGE SEATS AFTER SITTING DOWN?
KOUTAROU-KUN WAS THE TARGET?


YEAH, I WON THE MATCH SO I MOVED OVER TO MY USUAL SEAT...
THE KILLER IS SOMEONE WHO KNEW THAT YOU'D BEEN SITTING IN THAT SEAT, BUT DIDN'T KNOW YOU MOVED.
BUT WHY WAS HE TARGETING KOUTAROU-KUN!?

I'M SURE THAT THE KILLER IS ALSO HOTARU-CHAN'S STALKER...
CLATTER
WAH!
!?

WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
STEP
LOKI-SAMA! JUST AS YOU TOLD ME, I CAUGHT THE PERSON WHO CAME JUST NOW!
HUHHH!? WASN'T THAT GUY JUST AT THE CRIME SCENE? HOW'D HE GET HERE SO MUCH FASTER THAN US...
HE WENT THROUGH THE STAFF HALLWAY, OF COURSE.
STAFF HALLWAY
CRIME SCENE (GAMES)
PRESENT LOCATION (MANSION)
GUH...

I NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT CROSS.
BEFORE THE BLACKOUT YOU COULD SEE THE PATTERN, BUT AFTER...
DAMMIT, I JUST WANTED TO PUNISH YOU A LITTLE BIT!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
MY... MY HOTARU-CHAN....
YOU MISTOOK SOMEONE FOR KOUTAROU AND MURDERED HIM.

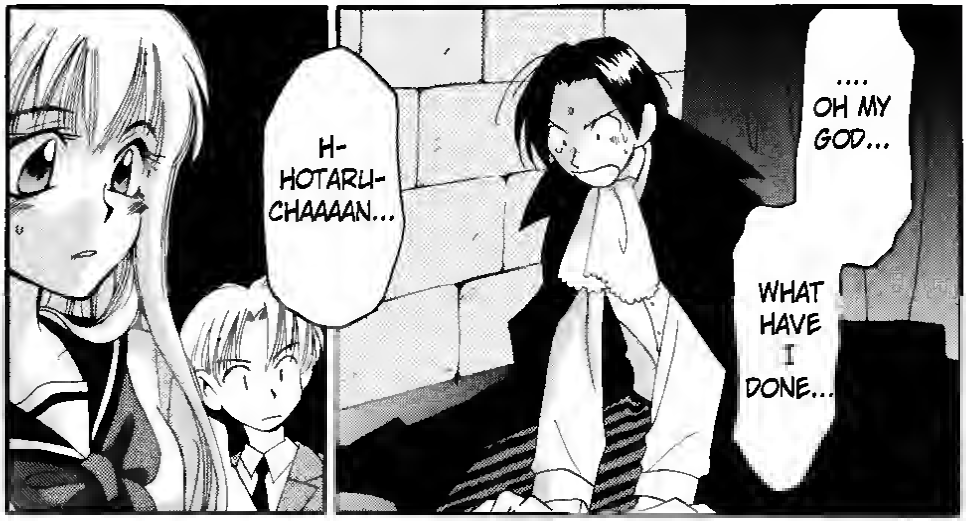
YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS OF LOVE FOR HER!!
ALWAYS WANTING TO BE WITH HER...
ALWAYS, ALWAYS WATCHING FROM AFAR...
THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
HOW CAN YOU EVEN CALL IT LOVE, WHEN YOUR "LOVE" CAUSED HER SO MUCH HARM?

N... NO... I DIDN'T
WOOSH
!!
!!

AAAA! A GUN!!
GET DOWN, MAYURA!
WH?
KA CHK!
IT TAKES A GOD'S BLESS-ING...
TO DEFEAT A MONSTER LIKE YOU!

BANG!
A DIRECT HIT, LOKI-SAMA
SLIP....

ISN'T THAT THE GUN FROM THAT GAME?
OH NO, LOKI-KUN! DID YOU ACTUALLY SHOOT HIM!?


H-HOTARU-CHAAAAN...
.... OH MY GOD...
WHAT HAVE I DONE...

IN THE LEGENDS, VAMPIRES MUST CONTINUALLY KILL HUMAN BEINGS IN ORDER TO KEEP THEMSELVES ALIVE...
IN THE REAL WORLD, HUMANS MURDER SIMPLY ON IMPULSE. I FEEL THAT THAT IS MUCH MORE FRIGHTENING...

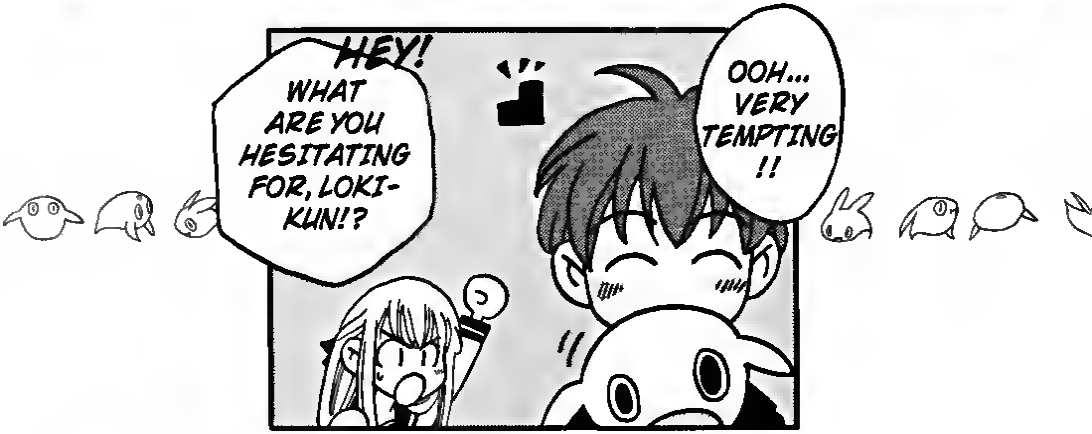
GREAT JOB, LOKI-KUN!
WE SOLVED IT BEFORE THE POLICE EVEN GOT THERE!

HEY YEAH, ABOUT THAT... EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T HIS FAULT, IT'S STILL NO GOOD THAT KOUTAROU-KUN MAKES SO MANY ENEMIES...
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK

THANKS MAYURA! WANNA GIVE ME A BACK-RUB TOO?
HOH HOH HOH
KILLING SOMEONE YOU THOUGHT WAS SOMEONE ELSE... WHAT A GRAVE ERROR...

HEY, I WANNA SAY SOME-THING.
KOU-TAROU-KUN!
BEING A DETECTIVE SEEMS FUN.
YOU WANNA HIRE ME OR SOMETHIN'?

DON'T YOU THINK I'D BE OF MORE USE THAN THIS CHICK?
HEY, WAIT JUST A MINUTE! WAIT A MINUTE!! WHAT'RE YOU THINKING OF JUST COMING HERE OUT OF THE BLUE!?
FOR EXAMPLE?
I'M THE ONLY DETECTIVE'S ASSISTANT THIS PLACE NEEDS!
WHAT THE HECK?
IF I WERE YOUR ASSISTANT, I'D BRING A TON OF CUTE GIRL CLIENTS IN!



MATANTEI LOKI 2: END